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Premier Kebich on Slavic, Islamic Unions

MK1407111093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jul 93 p 3

[Igor Sinyakevich report under "Belarus" rubric: "Premier Comments on Creation of Economic Union. Defense Minister Criticizes the Idea of CIS Joint Armed Forces"]

[Text] "It has come as a surprise to me"—this was how Belarus Premier Vyacheslav Kebich commented on Ukraine's signing a statement on the creation of an Economic Union.

Speaking at a press conference on 12 July on returning from Moscow after the signing of a statement on the creation of an economic union by the premiers of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, he confirmed that he had always been a supporter of close economic integration of the former Soviet countries. Kebich said that during his meeting with Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin on 30 June in Moscow he insisted that the process of creating the economic union be speeded up, and suggested that they should not wait until all the other states "become ripe"—but to create this union with at least two states, Russia and Belarus. The signing of the founding documents on the economic union by Ukrainian Premier Leonid Kuchma was a surprise to the Belarusian Government. "Apparently, the economic situation in Ukraine is forcing its leadership to pursue close cooperation," Kebich commented.

Concerning the rationale behind the economic union in this particular composition, the Belarusian prime minister said: "All the time there has been talk that the treaty will be signed between Belarus, Russia, and Kazakhstan. And suddenly Ukraine comes along. Why is Kazakhstan absent? That became clear prior to the signing of the documents. We did not want to link two political events, and we are not (the reference is to the Statement by Three and a meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation in Istanbul—NG). And when these documents were being prepared, we did not know about that meeting. The Russian side knew from its relevant bodies. Ten states got together and issued a statement that they would build a single Islamic space and that these would be strong Muslim states that would coordinate their activity and have certain influence. Naturally, our statement was not in opposition to that, but it did coincide in time. This is really so. And we decided that there are Muslim states, and there are Slavic states. Although we did not want this separation and this division."

Responding to the question of whether the presidents supported the premiers' decision, Kebich said that Boris Yeltsin had welcomed the creation of the economic union; Leonid Kuchma has a complicated relationship with Kravchuk; and he (Kebich) has fulfilled the will of his parliament.

The head of the Belarusian Government also said that the Armenian premier also expressed his wish to sign the foundation document on the economic union. According to Kebich, the prime minister of Kazakhstan in a telephone conversation with him expressed discontent over the fact that his country had not been invited to the trilateral meeting. Kebich told Tereshchenko: "We did not want to set ourselves against other states, other regions. On the contrary, any country can join. And an attempt to invite you has been made. But you could not be reached. You were in Istanbul at the time." Tereshchenko, according to Kebich, stated Kazakhstan's readiness to join both the Organization for Economic Cooperation and the Economic Union.

"We are against joint armed forces and we consider it necessary to build a collective defense by creating national armies on their respective territories," the minister said. According to him, the Main Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces has outlived itself since joint armed forces have never been created. "It is necessary to set up a new coordinating body based on the principle: one country, one vote, with the right of veto." Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy stated that Belarus in the future envisions itself as a neutral and nonnuclear state, but it has joined the collective security system out of tactical considerations, given the high degree of military integration so as "to create its own army more quietly and cheaply."

Responding to a question along which lines Belarus would be collaborating with other parties to the treaty, Colonel General Kozlovskiy answered that one could talk about information exchanges, in particular collaboration between military intelligence services and interaction through air defense systems. He specially stressed that the collective security treaty provides for the creation of defense systems along the external borders of the signatory states.

The defense minister stated that Belarus' accession to the CIS collective security system will not affect the time frame for the withdrawal of Russian troops from the republic. It is to be completed by 1996. A special agreement is pending on this count.

Pavel Kozlovskiy said that in the course of talks with U.S. experts, programs to provide financial assistance for nuclear disarmaments worth $65 million were coordinated. The agreement on rendering assistance under this program is planned to be signed during Stanislav Shushkevich's visit to Washington on 21 through 24 July.

The minister said that at present Belarusians make up 46 percent of commissioned officers in the Belarusian Army. A military uniform is being designed. Military manuals in Belarusian are being prepared. The minister is negative toward the activity by a patriotic organization, the Belarusian Association of Army Servicemen. He is concerned over the fact that this organization is forming paramilitary groups.

Secretary Critical of Prime Ministers' Summit

WS1507111893 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 0451 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Karatchenya has shared his views on the joint statement issued in Moscow by the prime ministers of the three Slavic republics in the 14 July issue of NARODNAYA GAZETA. In his opinion, this document, like the results of the latest meeting of the leaders of the states that are members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, directly or indirectly brings into question the results of the CIS agreements on creating an economic union signed by the leaders of nine CIS members.

Regarding the statement approved by the three prime ministers in Moscow, Ivan Karatchenya believes that: "It does not contain any new ideas, unusual approaches, or unexpected proposals. Everything it deals with has been defined in the draft treaty on creating the economic union."

"While reading and entering the spirit of the document," the executive secretary writes, "one may notice that many problems that have recently been the subject of fierce discussions have been successfully resolved by the three prime ministers, even the problems persistently and forcefully opposed by one of the sides, particularly the problem of establishing the coordinating bodies."

Ivan Karatchenya sympathetically welcomes the fact that for the first time in an official CIS document, the epithet "harsh" has been used with reference to the most important and sensitive issue—that of financial relations.

Baltic, Black Sea Countries Discuss Oil Supplies

LD1407192393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The international conference of the countries of the Baltic and Black Sea region—Ways of Surmounting Fuel and Energy Crisis—was held in Minsk today. Representatives of state structures and energy complexes from Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, and Ukraine attended the conference.

It was noted that the conference was held so that the countries of the Baltic and Black Sea region could seek economic solutions, and that it was not directed against third countries. The implementation of the project of the Baltic-Black Sea oil collector will not reduce oil supplies from the East to the countries of Eastern and Western Europe.

Issue of CIS Joint Armed Forces Reviewed

WS1407110993 Vilnius LIETUVOS AIDAS in Lithuanian 29 Jun 93 No. 123 p 6

[Article by newspaper correspondent Arminas Norkus: "Generals' Games: Where Will Russia's Joint Armed Forces Impose Order?"]

[Text] The developments in Azerbaijan and Ukraine and the threats to Estonia force me to recall one replacement that slipped past our attention, as it were. In the middle of June, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, chief commander of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, lost his post because it was simply abolished. The headline of the ITAR-TASS-ELTA report on the meeting of the CIS defense ministers' council that adopted this decision read: "The CIS Joint Armed Forces Were Not and Will Not Be Created." Shaposhnikov said at the meeting that the attempts to preserve the military and political cooperation among the CIS members were fruitless and that the CIS Joint Armed Forces would not be created, because some CIS states were not ready for political cooperation.

The fact that Shaposhnikov would lose his post could have been predicted as far back as mid-May, when he came up with a draft agreement on the CIS Joint Armed Forces at a similar meeting. According to the minister, the JGP [Joint Armed Forces] had to be created in several stages. Mobile units capable of suppressing small armed conflicts at the CIS state borders had to be formed during the first two years, that is, by late 1994. The second stage—between 1995 and 1996—had to witness the completion of the formation of the JGP from various army types and the JGP management. According to military observers, the key issue was that the draft agreement provided for a partial subordination of member units to the CIS Joint Armed Forces. It was maintained that the fact that the republics' armies become subordinated to the JGP leadership only in wartime means that the latter will not exploit them for its political goals.

Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan voted for this draft agreement then. Russia opposed it categorically. Its deputy defense minister, Boris Gromov (the ITAR-TASS report predicted that he would become the chief commander of the reformed JGP), stated that NATO and the former Warsaw Pact states would react negatively to the creation of the JGP. This statement is rather strange, because NATO members have said that they would rather have to deal with one organized structure than with several unclear military doctrines. (We could add: also with some units of the Russian regular Army or hired men that are hiding behind these doctrines.) Thus, it becomes clear that Gromov's other statement was the most important: Russia does not agree to transfer its strategic forces to the JGP chief commander. What does this mean, bearing in mind that Russia wants to take over all of the nuclear reserves of the former USSR? This means that all nuclear warheads will be in the pocket of the Russian Defense Ministry, and neither state (Ukraine or Kazakhstan) will put their hand in it. It is not difficult to foresee that even Kazakhstan can oppose such an option, which Ukraine is doing already. The reason for this opposition is obvious: If communists were to assume power in Moscow tomorrow, the entire nuclear potential of the former USSR would find itself in their hands.

In the middle of June, Russia did not want to create the JGP, and it rejected Shaposhnikov's plan. At the same time, the CIS defense ministers decided to get rid of Shaposhnikov himself. This was done with the aim of "upgrading" the JGP management. The office of the chief commander was replaced with the post of the chief for coordinating the military cooperation of the joint staff. The new position during the "transitional period" was proposed to General Colonel Viktor Samsonov. The council of the CIS leaders must approve this decision. Vladimir Kryzhanovskiy, Ukrainian ambassador to Russia, told INTERFAX that he was "participating in the funeral of the CIS JGP." The fact that one position was replaced with another one to eliminate the unwanted person allows me to state that: a) The threat that communists may assume power in Russia is real; b) The CIS Army has enough people ready to support communists; and c) these forces are preparing for a coup.

The second statement needs an explanation. When dividing the Army among the CIS states, Russian imperialists did not repeat the mistake they had made in the Baltic countries. If all former USSR officers in Lithuania has announced their wish to serve for independent Lithuania, we do not know how and with whom we would be living today. This became impossible only after the January events. The Army was divided among the former USSR republics. However, the officers did not become Tajiks or Ukrainians. Having gone to serve Ukraine, they are currently returning to the Russian Army, and bringing their arms and facilities with them. No one needs to be reminded of how such officers assisted the Tadjik communists in returning to power. Former USSR officers overthrew Azeri President Elchibey. It even seems that Russian democrats are the most powerful....

Russian President Boris Yeltsin immediately proposed that Shaposhnikov assume the post of the Security Council secretary. The president said at the press conference that his trust in the marshal is absolute. However, generals hold a different opinion. We could speculate about who would enjoy more influence in the Army—the Security Council secretary or the chief of the CIS JGP staff. It is clear, however, that Shaposhnikov's removal means a concession to imperial forces. This is a concession to those who wish to create the Russian Joint Armed Forces rather than the CIS JGP, that would impose order "on the territory of the former Soviet Union." Yeltsin applied to the United Nations for such a mandate.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 15 Jul

LD1507062793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0458 GMT 15 Jul 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 15 ITAR-TASS—Russian newspapers write today with concern about the bloody developments on the Tajik-Afghan border, where 20 Russian frontier guards were killed as a result of an attack of Afghan mujahideens on a frontier post. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA gives wide coverage to this incident and describes it as the biggest and most dangerous provocation of all those staged by the Tajik opposition. The publication of the Russian Defence Ministry asks: For how long will they try our patience to the breaking point? "The United States found it possible to launch a missile attack in retaliation for a criminal intention alone. Russia lost its 20 citizens on July 13. Isn't it high time to show to the world how much we value the lives of Russian soldiers?" the newspaper writes.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an article of its correspondent on this subject, which is entitled "Presentiment of Large War". "According to military experts, this was the largest combat operation staged by the opposition forces against the Tajik Government. However, it could be regarded as just a prelude to more serious developments on the border ... It is becoming obvious that the Tajik-Afghan border cannot be made impregnable by purely military methods. Political solutions and joint steps of the Tajik and Afghan Governments are needed," the newspaper writes.

PRAVDA describes the incident as a "brazen attempt to intimidate Russian frontier guards" and points out that, judging by the latest developments, the very existence of Tajikistan may be called into question.

In the opinion of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, the developments on the Tajik-Afghan border show that the Moscow authorities are not controlling the Russian frontier guard troops in Tajikistan the way they should. How did it happen that the frontier post was left without army and air force support from the rear? Why preparations for such a large operation were left unnoticed by the reconnaissance services of the Russian frontier guard troops? "For how long will Russian soldiers defend the territories of the republics which openly dissociated themselves from Russia? For how long will they be shot at not only in the face, but also in the back, the way it happens in Tajikistan, Georgia and some other so-called 'sovereign' countries," the newspaper writes.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, publication of the Russian parliament, confined itself to publishing a short report about the incident on the Tajik-Afghan border.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries a large analytical article about the unemployment problem in Russia. After analysing the statistics about the number of the unemployed in Russia, provided by the federal employment service, the newspaper points out that "unemployment has not been removed from Russia's life. The thing is that instead of being reflected in official statistics, it is being concealed in unpaid leaves, a short working week and so on ... However, the estimates of the council for the distribution of productive forces and cooperation show that we are already facing the problem of concealed unemployment of an enormous scope—some 20 million people." NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA stresses that the current situation in Russia is fraught with the danger of social upheavals. It mentions some factors which could facilitate Russia's advance to a market-based system.

"Russia is not being governed in the traditional Russian style," Anatoliy Salutskiy, a well-known political scientist, writes in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA. His article deals with "some mysterious features of today's Kremlin authorities." He describes the most prominent politicians and points out that "Russia's disease is somewhere deeper, under the surface of political 'account-settling', and, in my opinion, this is not realised to the full by the rulers themselves, who are caught by the excitement of rebuilding the state," he writes.

Yeltsin Orders Reinforcement of Tajik-Afghan Border

LD1507085693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0819 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the Russian president, has issued a statement on the events on the Tajik-Afghan border. It states:

"An audacious large-scale provocation has been committed on the Tajik-Afghan border by Afghan mojahedin forces and Tajik gunmen. The blood of Russian soldiers has been spilt. The border and sovereignty of Tajikistan, which is, like Russia, a party to the treaty on collective security, have been violated.

"The brutal actions of the mojahedin, and also the inability of the authorities of Afghanistan to control the situation on the borders, are a threat to the national security of the Russian Federation.

"Bowing his head to the courage of the Russian border guards who bravely went into combat against the superior forces of the bandits, and expressing deep grief in connection with the heroic deaths of the border guards and soldiers of the 201st Motorized Rifle Division, the president of Russia declares his determination and readiness to defend the national and geopolitical interests of Russia and her allies.

"President Boris Yeltsin is fully in control of the development of the situation in the region; he supports the operational and decisive actions by the Russian Federation Defense Ministry and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev in the crisis that has arisen.

"In expectation of a Supreme Soviet decision on the use of Russian troops to suppress the bandit action, the president has issued instructions to the Defense Ministry to make the necessary preparations to strengthen the personnel and combat strength of the Russian Armed Forces to decisively repulse any provocations in the region of the Tajik-Afghan border. In the event of the Supreme Soviet refusing to take upon itself the responsibility placed upon it by the law on defense, the president will take the appropriate steps guaranteeing the national interests of Russia.

"Delay in the adoption by the Supreme Soviet of a decision on this matter is hampering the actions of the president, the Defense Ministry, and is inflicting damage on the country's political interests and the patriotic sentiments of the population."

Grachev Calls For Additional Units

LD1407160793 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1430 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The forces of the Russian border troops are insufficient for the reliable defense of the Tajik-Afghan frontier and additional units of border troops should be brought into the region, Russian Defense Minister Army General Grachev stated today. He added that Russian border troops stationed in Tajikistan also needed reinforcements of heavy equipment, tanks, artillery, and combat vehicles. The 201st Motorized Infantry Division needs reinforcement with volunteers, the minister said. The War Department also asked the Russian Supreme Soviet to adopt an appeal to the parliaments of the Commonwealth countries, primarily the signatories of the Collective Security Treaty, to send Tajikistan contingents of peacemaking forces.

Officers Back Grachev Call

PM1507103793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jul 93 p 1

["Appeal to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet From the Participants in the Meeting of Assistant Commanders for Work With Russian Armed Forces Personnel"; date not given]

[Text] We are deeply outraged at the further escalation of tension on the Afghan-Tajik border. During the night of 12-13 July Russian servicemen were attacked by Afghan mojahedin and Tajik thugs. Completely surrounded, the border guards of the 12th border guard post fought an unequal fight. There are dead and wounded.

Provocations in this area have become increasingly vicious recently. It is becoming obvious that this is to the benefit of certain forces both in Tajikistan and abroad. The efforts being made via the Russian Foreign and Defense Ministries have unfortunately failed to produce the desired result. In the past few days dozens of Russian servicemen have died, vanished without trace, or been wounded.

The impression being created is that their getting away with what they have done is making the bandits more brazen. Their actions are becoming more sophisticated, and the marks they are leaving on Tajik soil are becoming bloodier.

Guided by the CIS collective security agreement, the Russian Armed Forces are taking resolute measures to end the brigandage and bloodshed.

We, the participants in the meeting of assistant commanders for work with Russian Armed Forces personnel, support the measures proposed by the Russian Federation defense minister in his message to the Supreme Soviet.

Paper Views Attack on Border Guards

PM1507110593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jul 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Pelts article: "Thugs Have Retreated. But Nobody Is Ruling Out Fresh Armed Provocations Against Russian Border Guards""]

[Excerpts] Military experts' predictions were proved right: When the level of the Pyanzh River on the border fell, Islamic fighters entrenched in Afghanistan became more active. Yesterday's report on the attack on the Moskovskiy Border Detachment's 12th border guard post is convincing confirmation of this. [passage omitted]

A conclusion can be drawn from the tragic events on the Tajik-Afghan border—but one offering no consolation, unfortunately: Reactionary Islamic forces have not abandoned their long-contemplated operation "Retribution." Furthermore, Afghan mojahedin are beginning to participate in their criminal schemes, which complicates the situation even further. In a protest note to official Kabul the Tajikistan Foreign Ministry has assessed this fact as a hostile and dangerous provocation aimed at wrecking the dialogue initiated in Istanbul between the leaders of Tajikistan and Afghanistan, Imamali Rakhmanov and Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Taking account of situation developing in southern Tajikistan, the Russian Defense Ministry has adopted a decision to reinforce the grouping of Russian border guard troops in Tajikistan. Units of the 201st Russian Motorized Infantry Division will be coming to the border guards' aid.

Chernomyrdin's Visit to Germany Previewed

LD1407044893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0429 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vyacheslav Kevorkov and Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Bonn July 14 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin arrives in Germany on Wednesday for a three-day visit. During the first day of the visit, the Russian premier will hold talks in Bonn with President Richard von Weizsaecker, Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Economics Minister Gunter Rexrodt.

The talks will deal mainly with matters aimed at developing economic, scientific and technical cooperation between Russia and Germany.

Chernomyrdin is also to meet leading German industrialists, German and foreign journalists and visit Cologne and Berlin.

Comments on Aims of Visit

LD1407122293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0940 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jul—The current visit is linked with the further deepening of Russian-German mutual relations," Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government, stated to journalists at "Vnukovo-2" airport before his departure for Germany. The positive things that we have already worked on today, he added, especially after the meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Helmut Kohl, must be built upon.

True, Viktor Chernomyrdin noted, "a certain decline is being observed in a number of directions in the mutual relations between our two countries today, and it is our task to correct this." Besides this, the premier noted, the Russian side will be interested in the situation in the eastern laender of Germany where many enterprises were orientated on the Russian market.

The prime minister's three-day working visit promises to be intensive and productive. According to the preliminary program, Viktor Chernomyrdin is to meet with the federal chancellor and the federal president and to have talks with the economics minister and foreign minister of the FRG. It is planned to sign an agreement on air communications between Russia and the FRG. The program also envisages meetings with representatives of business circles of Germany and visits to industrial enterprises and the Western Group of Russian Federation Forces.

After the Tokyo meeting of heads of state of the "Seven" and the Russian president, contacts between the Russian leadership and leaders of the industrially developed countries are taking on a qualitatively new basis. Thus, replying to a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent on mutual relations between Russia and the United States in connection with the Russian-Indian treaty on supplies of cryogenic motors, Viktor Chernomyrdin stated that this is "not an easy question and it must not be resolved on impulse." "It is not a matter of giving way but of adjusting our relations with the United States in a part of work in space."

During his trip the Russian prime minister will visit Bonn and Berlin.

Arrives in Bonn

LD1407142593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1330 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulbitsky]

[Text] Bonn July 14 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin arrived in Bonn on a three-day working visit on Wednesday to discuss economic cooperation problems.

He is to meet Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt.

The talks will focus on prospects of economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

An agreement on air transportation is expected to be signed.

Chernomyrdin is also to meet leading western businessmen, visit industrial facilities, as well as Russian troops in the country.

Comments on Talks With Kohl

LD1407160693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1434 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Ivan Ivanov, Vyacheslav Kevorkov, and Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Bonn, 14 Jul—"Russia feels that there is substantial support from Germany, and the economic relations between our countries must reach a new level of development," stated Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, answering the question of an ITAR-TASS correspondent here today after the conclusion of his talk with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The head of the Russian cabinet arrived in Germany today on a three-day working visit, the first item of his program being his talks with the chancellor.

According to Viktor Chernomyrdin, during the talk which lasted almost one and a half hours, a wide range of questions of economic nature was discussed. "First of all we discussed issues of cooperation between our enterprises and between the industrialists of the two countries, the importance of which it is difficult to overestimate today," the Russian premier told the journalists.

Having stressed that Germany is in essence the center of Europe, and that "the prestige of Germany in Europe is high," Viktor Chernomyrdin noted that this fact is very important for Russia "because today it is highly necessary for us to enter the European market." "This is one of the main aims of my trip, and I believe that this task is feasible," he noted.

Meets German President

LD1407182193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1736 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Ivan Ivanov, Vyacheslav Kevorkov and Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Bonn, 14 Jul—Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, who is in the FRG on a three-day working visit, was today received here for a conversation by FRG President Richard von Weizsaecker.

ITAR-TASS correspondents have learned from well-informed sources in the Russian delegation that the German head of state emphasized in the course of the meeting that the political dialogue between Russian and FRG political leaders is rather intensive today. Richard von Weizsaecker was interested in the Russian Federation prime minister's assessment of the political situation in Russia and of the state of its relations with Estonia.

The FRG president also stated that Germany rendered economic assistance to Russia and will continue to do so in future.

In the course of the conversation Viktor Chernomyrdin pointed out that relations with Germany are a priority and hold pivotal importance in Russia's foreign political activity.

The Russian prime minister underlined: The aim of this visit to the FRG is to "pull up," in the first place, the economic dimension of the relationships. It is also important for us to acquaint ourselves with Germany's expertise in regulating economic processes, and in transferring economies of new federal laender to market relations, Viktor Chernomyrdin said.

Security Ministry Denies Passing Secret Documents to Germany

LD1407085393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0740 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—The Russian Security Ministry has denied a report by the German magazine DER STERN and some other German mass media that Russia had handed over to the German counterintelligence documents on espionage against the Federal Republic of Germany by former East German secret police.

The reports also said that the documents could produce a real threat of exposure of former East German agents. "The information about the transfer of such materials to the German side is false and does not correspond with the reality simply because the Russian Security Ministry has never possessed such materials", the ministry press centre said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

FIS Deputy Denies Documents Given to 'Stasi'

PM1407154993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jul 93 First Edition p 3

[Gennadiy Charodeyev report: "Russian Intelligence Did Not Hand Documents to Germany"]

[Text] The German magazine FOCUS has published a sensational article alleging that the director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service handed over to the FRG Federal Department for the Protection of the Constitution archive material belonging to the former GDR Ministry of State Security, known as the "Stasi."

Your IZVESTIYA correspondent asked Vyacheslav Trubnikov, first deputy director of the Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service, to comment on this report, and he said, in particular:

"The reports about this circulated by a number of Western publications lately are absolute lies. Russian intelligence does not have "Stasi" documents—either copies or originals. We have nothing to hand over. Our press office issued an appropriate denial a month ago.

However, articles of this kind are continuing to appear, including in the FRG. The most recent of them—in FOCUS—shows particularly clearly that what is going on is a purposeful disinformation operation, the idea of which clearly did not originate within the press itself. Somone is trying to make maximum use of the 'Russian factor' in the internal political struggle in Germany and to find so-called 'weighty arguments' in attempts to weaken their political opponents."

However, V. Trubnikov did nevertheless admit that GDR Ministry of State Security documents and even some secret papers of the former USSR KGB could well be in the hands of the leaders of German counterintelligence. According to him, this certainly does not indicate that the Foreign Intelligence Service handed them to the FRG Federal Department for the Protection of the Constitution.

"We keep on discovering top-secret documents and copies of them abroad," the intelligence officer noted. "And I think it is perfectly possible that the German special services are deliberately 'covering up' the real source of the material about "Stasi" activities."

U.S. To Allocate $3 Million To Develop Cooperation

LD1407220393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2058 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow July 15 TASS—The United States seek to develop cooperation with Russia in all fields, Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to Russia, said at a ceremony of signing the agreements between the U.S. Agency for Trade and Development and Russian representatives on Wednesday.

In accordance with these agreements, the United States will allocate about $3 million to finance various projects in the fields of oil and gas processing, air flight monitoring, power engineering, copper and aluminium production, health care and car production.

According to Pickering, the U.S. Agency for Trade and Development has signed some 30 agreements which aim to develop cooperation between the U.S., on the one hand, and Russia and other CIS countries, on the other, since May 1992.

The American companies engaged in implementation of the projects would employ Russian specialists which would be another instance of the mutually beneficial cooperation, he noted.

Talks Resumed With U.S. on Rocket Engine Sales to India

LD1407223793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2100 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Loschilin]

[Text] Washington July 15 TASS—The U.S.-Russian talks resumed here, which are centered on settling differences between Washington and Moscow over the agreement on the sale by Russia of rocket engines to India, as well as on prospects for bilateral cooperation in space. On Wednesday, the Russian delegation led by Director General of the Russian Space Agency Yuriy Koptev met U.S. Undersecretary of State for International Security Affairs Lynn Davis. Later in the day, talks were held with director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Daniel Goldin, U.S. Assistant Administrator at Trade Negotiations Peter Allgeier and officials of the U.S. National Security Council.

The U.S. Administration believes that the agreement on the sale of cryogenic engines to India violates the regime of rocket technologies spreading across the world. Russian representatives argue that these engines cannot be used for military purposes and are inclined to account for the U.S. stand by the country's striving for keeping possible competitors out of the world market of space techniques. This issue was already discussed here last month by representatives of the two states, however the parties failed to reach any agreement.

Commentary on U.S., DPRK Resuming Talks in Geneva

SK1507101593 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Commentary by station commentator Valeriy Suykov from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] The U.S.-DPRK high-level talks will resume in Geneva on 14 July. The talks first started in New York in early July.

Our station commentator Valeriy Suykov writes:

The scheduled resumption of the dialogue between Foreign Ministry representatives of two countries which have no diplomatic relations is in itself very good.

The start of such dialogue shows that both Washington and Pyongyang are very interested in resolving some imminent issues like nuclear safety on the Korean peninsula and the DPRK's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Since Pyongyang announced its decision to withdraw from the treaty, it has managed to postpone the effectuation of its decision to a certain extent. The DPRK has also continuously rejected proposals on special inspections [tukpyolsachal] of two of its military facilities [kunsadaesang]. As a matter of course, the nonconfirmation [of these facilities] will continue to worry its neighboring countries and should not last for much longer.

Ways to immediately resolve the Korean [choson] nuclear issue must be found.

Given the U.S. President's [words indistinct], the issue must be resolved at an early date. U.S. President Clinton stated that the United States would continuously pressure Pyongyang to return to the treaty. We must not forget Bill Clinton's strong warning of the threat which nuclear weapons development will bring. Clinton's statement immediately invited a negative response from the Pyongyang leadership. Pyongyang stated that such a statement would not favorably affect the upcoming talks.

The two countries have many issues to discuss at the Geneva meeting. However, the problem is whether agreement will be reached at the meeting. [passage indistinct] This is because lack of information does not make any prediction possible.

Churkin Comments on Yugoslav Settlement Prospects

MK1407110093 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No. 29, 14 Jul 93 (Signed to Press 13 Jul) p 5

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin by Andrey Sharyy; place and date not given]

[Text] Vitaliy Churkin, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, is the Russian president's special representative at the talks on a settlement in the former Yugoslavia.

Churkin is an exponent of the new, "European" school of Russian diplomacy. It is largely thanks to Vitaliy Churkin's personal efforts that Moscow could formulate its relatively clear policy line in the Balkans. Western observers rate Churkin as a world-level diplomat, noting, however, that he sometimes has to make up for a lack of specific knowledge with his natural charisma.

[Churkin] One of the main points in our present vision of a settlement of the Bosnia situation is this: An understanding between the sides in conflict should not be expected to be an agreement resulting form a military victory or a military defeat. It is a matter of coming up with proposals and formulas actually arrived at through much suffering as a result of a bloody war. Rather than consolidating military gains as a result of aggression, these formulas should provide a chance for a territorial and political delimitation between the three hostile sides. Incidentally, this was one of the high points during our recent discussions in Moscow with the foreign ministers of Yugoslavia and Croatia. The "Bosnian" talks cannot be viewed in terms of the usual classical patterns when an endless argument over separate details drags on for many years. Serious decisions are required right now, and the approach should not have the Muslims feel like a cornered side accepting conditions only owing to its military defeats.

[Sharyy] This, incidentally, takes us back to the argument about lifting the embargo on deliveries of weapons to participants in the conflict....

[Churkin] You know the result of the latest voting in the UN Security Council: six countries, the United States included, spoke for the lifting of the embargo, and nine countries abstained, including Russia, Britain, and France. We agreed with the Americans that what happened should not be dramatized. There is, however, the impression that the Bosnians' demands to lift the embargo are also designed to take the spotlight off some serious violations of the embargo. A powerful offensive, like the one the Muslims carried out against the Croats, would clearly have been impossible without additional arms supplies.

[Sharyy] Vitaliy Ivanovich, there are a whole number of reasons for which we are in no hurry to take this diplomatic step.

[Churkin] Let me name some of them. First, we link the fact of establishment of diplomatic relations with the start of a peace settlement process. Besides, we are waiting for greater certainty in the general position of the Bosnian leaders.

[Sharyy] Is the question of participation of Russian volunteers on the Serbs' side being raised in the course of the talks with the Muslims?

[Churkin] I cannot say it should be of any serious importance. We have clearly stated our position: The Russian Government has nothing to do with these mercenaries. Citizens of many countries in the world are fighting in the former Yugoslavia, unfortunately, and Russia is no exception in this sad roster. I would not be surprised if our countrymen are fighting both alongside the Serbs and alongside the Croats.

[Sharyy] How do you see developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the coming months?

[Churkin] My prognosis is this: Unless the conflict is settled by the first anniversary of the London conference—let me remind you that it took place at the end of last August—the war will be in for another round.

Further Remarks

PM1407120793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jul 93 p 7

[Yelena Kalyadina report: "Vitaliy Churkin's Modest Charm"]

[Text] The deputy foreign minister has no intention of leaving his post yet and remains committed to the cause of a Yugoslav settlement.

"We are modest people." This self-critical and laconic reply issued from the lips of Vitaliy Churkin, deputy foreign minister and special representative of the Russian Federation president, in response to a question from a participant in yesterday's session of the Moscow Press Club, who inquired: Why will Russia, while actively involved in promoting the European plan for a Yugoslav settlement, not in the end advance its own plan?

Well, to be serious, this is what Vitaliy Ivanovich believes. We, in other words Russia, cannot cope on our own with this very complex problem. In principle, of course, we could propose our own project. But the chances of its being accepted by all the sides in the conflict are minimal. This is because the absolute trust of all the sides is needed for this, which is not, in fact, to be observed at present. But trust, as is known, grows along with contacts. At present these are irregular. Russia now has more contacts with the Serbian side (at the same time, let us emphasize, the Russian Federation president's special representative in no way had in mind Russia's individual support for Serbia), while other countries have more contacts with the Croatian and Muslim sides. At the same time the deputy minister certainly does not belittle the Russian contribution to creating "formulas" for a Bosnian settlement. A recent example is our weighty contribution (and even, according to him, our service) to the fact that the negotiating process was not broken off following the failure of the Vance-Owen plan, and a new project saw the light of day. At present, in V. Churkin's opinion, it does have a chance of life, since the Muslim side is not refusing to sit at the negotiating table, although it does not yet accept the bases of the Serbo-Croatian proposal. The Muslim world, which still cherishes the idea of lifting the embargo on arms deliveries to its Bosnian "namesakes," is nonetheless increasingly coming round to the idea that you cannot halt a war by force.

I would like to share the cautious optimism of the Russian president's representative, who, while he has held this difficult post, has well come to understand the cost of the Yugoslav troubles. Particularly after his confident, negative reply to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's confidential question: Is it true that he, the "Yugoslav shuttle," as PRAVDA reported yesterday with reference to rumors, "not having won H. Kissinger's laurels (I cite PRAVDA), will go to Brussels to strengthen relations with NATO"? At the same time, however, Vitaliy Ivanovich, as always smiling charmingly, added for some reason: "Unfortunately." Maybe because here, too, he was guided by the principle (see the beginning of the report) that "we are modest people."

Deputy Premier Yarov on 'Hasty' Sevastopol Decision

LD1407150293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1220 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] In our society, reactions to the decision recently adopted by the Supreme Soviet on the status of Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet are far from unequivocal. Here is the view of Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Yarov. He has more than once led Russian delegations at talks with Ukraine.

[Begin Yarov recording] I feel that it was, first, somewhat hasty, and, second was not exactly well thought out. I understand that, I have also spoken emotively about the future of Sevastopol, but I was spoke not about the city of Sevastopol, I was speaking about the naval base, about the fact that this is where the Russian Black Sea fleet started, that it has been created, that it exists and that it will remain Russian. But that wasn't about the city or its territory, it was only about the naval base. And, we, where in our drafts - if you recall, even what was signed by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and Leonid Makarevich Kravchuk - there are those articles which say that, in the materials prepared, we are taking part in the development of the social sphere of this city, or in all those cities where units of the Black Sea Fleet will be deployed, we will then say the Russian fleet [as heard]. And even now we are ready when it is shared.

And it seems to me that this misunderstanding now creates - well, once again it is necessary somehow to go and sort it out with the government and parliament of the Ukraine, but what is worst of all for me is that this is now not exactly understood, or shared; it is without the knowledge or agreement of the Crimean Supreme Soviet and the Crimea. And then such a thing is adopted.

Such a formulation of the question nowadays is not serious when we, if you recall, were in possession of all these materials (?which we have here). But we did not feel it necessary, or timely. In the CIS we all reached agreement, and the whole world agreed on no revision of borders whether it was liked or not, in which case there are talks udner way. It is not permissible for one side to take decisions of any kind.

These parliamentary groups should not have been set up now. These groups should have been set up beforehand, before consideration, and should have travlled to the Ukraine Supreme Soviet to find the best mutually acceptable options for them and then to take whatever decisions were needed.

Unilateral decisions with regard to such complex issues are, first, hasty, and secondly, unpredictable in terms of their consequences. [end recording]

'Expert' Comments on Decisions on Sevastopol, Crimea

MK1407132093 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 29, 18 Jul 93 (Signed to Press 13 Jul) p A7

[Article by Viktor Kuvaldin, Gorbachev Foundation expert, in "In the Country" column: "The Sevastopol Knot"]

[Text] The resolution by the Russian parliament on Sevastopol adopted unanimously (with one abstention) has not as yet attracted due attention, which is a pity.

Our parliamentarians have exploded a bomb of great destructive power. Unless all measures are taken now to minimize the damage, we shall all be in for hard trials.

It would be silly and unfair to lay all the responsibility for what has happened on the Russian parliamentarians. The beginning of the current dramatic developments, fraught with tragic consequences, lies in the Belovezhskaya Forest agreements, in the senseless and illegitimate dismemberment of a single living organism. When on 1 December 1991 Ukraine voted for its independence, talks on the conditions for its withdrawal from the union state should have been started at once. And then in the process of the talks all the questions should have been quietly decided: on the Black Sea Fleet, on the status of Sevastopol, and on the impermissibility of forced Ukrainization of Russian-speaking regions. But that scenario did not suit Yeltsin's and Kravchuk's teams, which were in a mad haste, full of a fervent wish to get rid of the weakened union center and feel themselves full masters.

Today, however, it has transpired that millions of people of various nationalities do not wish to pay for the overhasty sovereignization. Behind the parliament's tough, confrontational decision lies a new reality which cannot be ignored by any sensible politician. In Russia, rejection of the Belovezhskaya Forest agreements is gaining momentum. A natural protest against an unnatural organization of a post-Soviet space can take on very dangerous forms. And then inevitably the temptation will emerge to pressure the former union republics, territorial claims will appear, and so forth.

The tragedy of the situation consists in that these claims were not born out of nothing. To me, as well as to millions of my compatriots, Sevastopol has been and will always be a city of Russian glory, occupying a special place in the national consciousness. In the hot debates that have unfolded around the Black Sea Fleet, the Ukrainian side has displayed moral blindness and deplorable misunderstanding of this factor.

The situation is made more complicated and difficult by the inept actions on the part of Moscow and Kiev, to a large extent dictated by internal political considerations. The fleet, Sevastopol, and Crimea have become bargaining chips in a big-time game played by politicians in the capitals, who are more concerned by their own rather than national interests. Astounding cynicism often marks both Russian and Ukrainian policy. I am not even talking about Russian and Ukrainian jingoists who have seen the Black Sea Fleet issue as an ideal springboard for their career.

Today is not the time for unilateral actions and decisions, a fait accompli policy. A contemporary fleet is too dangerous and formidable a weapon to be used in irresponsible demarches and maneuvers. One must not provoke the seamen, but protect them from the stress that they have had plenty of as it is.

What has been said cannot be unsaid; this refers all the more to a parliamentary decree. First of all, it is necessary to dampen the intensity of rhetoric and to stop suicidal public diplomacy. Russian and Ukrainian statesmen must finally attend to the entire complex of our relations. Otherwise others will do that.

The decision to divide the fleet adopted at the latest meeting of Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk I regard as unhappy: It is no accident that it has poured more fuel on the fire. It is better to preserve a single fleet for the time being, under joint command, to agree on a special status for Sevastopol, and find mutual understanding in the Crimean collisions.

Lurking behind the Sevastopol knot is the key problem of Russian foreign policy: how to build interrelations between the two largest Slavic peoples that have lived in a single state for more than three centuries. From the Russian vantage point, the question has been raised in point-blank terms: What is more beneficial for us—a permanent crisis and a possible collapse of Ukraine, or its gradual stabilization as an independent, friendly state?

I think the latter. Instability and chaos in Ukraine would extremely complicate the pursuit of democratic transformations in Russia, rebounding on the fragile Russian statehood. This is not a zero-sum game where one partner's means a win for the other; this is a cruel super-game where both lose, regardless of the outcome.

Proceeding from its strategic interests, Russia must today support Ukraine, which has found itself in an extremely difficult situation, to prevent it from losing its balance and slipping into an abyss. Ukraine has chosen the path of creating its own state, and we, the Russians, must respect its choice. Let it test and appraise by itself the extent to which this course is realistic and feasible. I suppose that in any event the optimal strategy for Ukraine in building its own statehood is close, mutually beneficial cooperation with Russia. It is in this channel that we should direct our relations rather than engage in a bloody division of our common legacy.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA Assesses G-7

934E0999A Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 10 Jul 93 pp 1-2

[Article by Aleksandr Oskin under the rubric "Topical Commentaries": "Russia Was Given Three Billion—Yesterday]

[Text] **The first official part of the meeting of the heads of the leading capitalist states in Tokyo has come to an end. And it immediately shifted smoothly to the second part—a meeting of the G-7 with the candidate for the eighth spot in the high-level group—Boris Yeltsin. In the interval, a number of decisions were made that, in the concept of the organizers, were supposed to greet the Russian president as a welcoming ceremonial fanfare and mark his impending appearance on the world stage.**

They earmarked $3 billion for the Privatization Assistance Fund, expressed political support for the Kremlin's reform policy, and asserted a readiness to remove the export restrictions that remained from the times of the Cold War. It must be assumed that all of this, again according to the concept of the producers, was supposed to make the candidate to the Group of Seven happy. The exclusion from the concluding declaration of any kind of mention of the Russo- Japanese dispute over territorial questions pursued these aims exactly. The G-7 simply passed over this problem. Although it did find it possible, for example, to mention Mongolia.

International observers asserted with great conviction that Russia would receive only $2 billion in Tokyo. The G-7 allotted $3 billion. As Bill Clinton noted, this decision was extremely advantageous for the United States. Addressing, apparently, his own voters, he added that, as a result, more American commodities will enter Russia, and it would make it possible for the United States to move forward in the resolution of its economic problems.

Three billion—this is not much for Russia, rather it is little. The FRG, for example, spends significantly larger sums to equalize the economic potential of its eastern and western lands. Incidentally, it is precisely for this reason that, in the words of Chancellor H. Kohl, it cannot increase its assistance radically. However, it is not only the FRG. All of the other G-7 members are experiencing serious economic and political difficulties. Perhaps it is for this reason that this time it was more a spirit of ideology and appeals that hovered over the Tokyo summit meeting and that the modest assistance to Russia was arranged with a limited propaganda display. According to an apt comment of one of the European journalists, a meeting was held in the capital of Japan by seven of the most powerful world states represented by the weakest leaders in the entire history of such summits. As a matter of fact, Francois Mitterrand does not have 50 percent support of his citizens in France. The position of Bill Clinton is still worse. Even after carrying out an alleged antiterrorist missile strike on Saddam Husayn's intelligence center, he could not raise his rating in the country above 40 percent. The charming Kim Campbell—the new Canadian prime minister—is completely captive to impending elections and the possibility of the defeat of her Progressive- Conservative Party. John Major is stifled by a catastrophic drop in his authority. His rating as prime minister is the lowest in England for the entire postwar history. Helmut Kohl now represents the most unpopular government of the FRG. The new eastern lands, after the first holiday euphoria, brought him a headache and increasing dissatisfaction with Bonn's policy on both sides of the former Berlin wall. Carlo Ciampi is in the aura of a temporary nonparty leader who is trying to lead Italy out of the deepest political crisis of the last 50 years. But this half-sick and tired "magnificent seven" is rounded out by the no less worried Kiichi Miyazawa. At the present time in Japan, he has the support of only 6 percent of his fellow citizens. K. Miyazawa, it must be assumed, will remain in history as the person who broke the 38-year uninterrupted supremacy in the government of his Liberal Democratic Party.

All of these internal and many economic and political "weak spots" compelled the Tokyo meeting participants not to have big ideas about "historical decisions."

Japan was called on to broaden its consumer demand, Europe—to lower interest rates, and the United States—to reduce the budget deficit. A course was set for the revival of the world economy and the development of trade. However, it must be admitted that similar "courses" were worked out at all three of the recent summits, and they successfully remained paper desires. Only one thing can be said with great certainty—that the G-7 meeting next year will be held in Naples. So, all of the other agreements can remain euphonious political twaddle.

The second section of the meeting in Tokyo is still going on. We will not call it over. We will wait for the results of the negotiations of the weak G-7 with Boris Yeltsin, who has no less a collection of internal political problems. A meeting of the presidents of Russia and the United States will take place Saturday morning. Afterwards B. Yeltsin and F. Kohl will head for Irkutsk. There in the settlement of Listvyanka, they will conduct their two-day negotiations. I think that this Siberian weekend will become the last accord of the Tokyo summit.

Bilateral Ties With G-7 Nations Viewed

PM1407115093 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jul 93 p 3

[Vladimir Kuzar article: "'Seven Plus One' Still a Long Way From Making 'Eight': Notes of an Observer at the Tokyo Meeting"]

[Text] For the second year in succession the Russian president took part in the meeting of the leaders of the world's seven leading industrially developed states. As in Munich, his participation in the Tokyo summit was defined by the formula "seven plus one." What this amounts to is that for two and a half days the G-7 members discuss a wide range of political and economic problems—including questions of relations with Russia—and adopt decisions on them, and then they meet with the Russian leader. In Tokyo three hours were allowed for this meeting.

British Prime Minister John Major, characterizing the "seven plus one" formula, stated at a press conference in the Japanese capital that it is "the most suitable at the present stage." "The G-7 countries are the world's major industrially developed powers, and Russia does not come into that category," he stressed. One could agree with the UK prime minister's logic, but a number of questions arise. For instance, how long will this stage last, how much interest do the Western countries have in shortening it, and finally, how are we to understand all the kind words their leaders said about Russia at the Tokyo meeting?

If you study the documents adopted there and analyze the participants' statements, it emerges that the Seven see Russia as a strategic ally, a partner, and even an equal member. In short, it would not take much more for G-7 to become G-8. Yet Russia is invited to the next G-7 meeting—which is to take place in Naples next year—in its old capacity. And the generalities of the Tokyo declarations in connection with our country are very reminiscent of last year's in Munich. Especially those that mention the equal partnership between G-7 and Russia in international economic cooperation.

"We recognize the importance of wider access for Russia to the markets, in the interests of its economic progress," the economic declaration adopted in Tokyo notes. "We will cooperate with Russia as it advances toward entry into the GATT. In this connection we are stepping up efforts to bring export controls into line with the realities of the post-cold-war era." And that is all. Not a single concrete date, not a single concrete time scale. Although apparently a time scale does exist. At least, during the Tokyo meeting it was said that the lifting of COCOM restrictions could take place within the next... 10 years (!).

It seems that that is the duration of the stage during which our country will be barred from the "elite club." Because without the full opening up of markets to Russia, the abolition of discrimination in trade with it, the elimination of all restrictions, and the granting of favored-nation status, it is rather difficult to join the ranks of the leading industrial states today. And there can be no doubt that that is not going to happen in the near future. Incidentally, to this day Russia is mentioned 300 times in U.S. legislation as a communist country with a centralized state economy.

No, the Seven do not need new rivals. They are already worried about the problems that exist in relations between members of their own club. These emerged with new force in Tokyo. The participants in the meeting achieved only with great difficulty an accord on reducing certain customs barriers and duties on the movement of goods and capital from G-7 countries in their own markets. And this was assessed as a historic success for the conference. Although not all its participants hold that view—take, for instance, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

That is just one aspect of the conflicts that exist within G-7. And there are many of them. For instance, the threat of trade war constantly hangs over U.S.-Japanese economic relations.

In these circumstances the most the Seven could permit themselves to do in connection with concrete cooperation with Russia was to grant it more credit. The $3 billion allocated under the so-called "privatization fund" is a substantial sum, and we will probably need it to stabilize the economy. But on the one hand, it has yet to be handed over, and on the other, Russia itself could earn the necessary hard currency. According to Russian Federation Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, all the types of restrictions applied by the West on access for Russian goods to their markets affect our exports, in real terms, to the tune of something like $1 billion a year. We lose as much again through restrictions on the export of services (satellite launches, telecommunications, etc.). And many such examples could be cited.

The lack of readiness—or rather, lack of desire—to recognize Russia as an equal partner not in word, but in deed, and immediately to lift all discriminatory restrictions, is justified in the West by talk of the "unstable political situation" in our country, the "transitional period" in the Russian economy, and so forth. Yet great changes have taken place in Russia in the past year. Our country, the Russian president stressed in Tokyo, has made substantial progress toward a free democratic society and a market economy. On that basis, the Russian delegation called on G-7 to show more concrete cooperation and grant us equal rights on world markets. But apparently this appeal stayed just that, an appeal.

There is no doubt that it is in Russia's interests to hold regular annual dialogue with the leaders of the seven leading industrially developed states. All the same, I think bilateral ties are more productive. By developing mutually beneficial cooperation with each of the G-7 countries individually, Russia will find it easier to overcome all the barriers and break through what is a kind of economic blockade by the West, if you call things by their names. What else can you call it if, for instance, at the present time some 20 prohibitive and restrictive procedures are in force or are at the stage of adoption with regard to Russian goods, procedures that are hypocritically described as antidumping measures.

And another thing. As our plane from Tokyo landed at Vnukovo airport, two Tu-134A's were preparing for takeoff—one taking Leonid Kuchma to Kiev, the other taking Vyacheslav Kebich to Minsk. The heads of government of the Slav republics were being seen off by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. They were being seen off after the attainment of an accord on the formation of an economic union. And I saw that as a good sign—by pooling their efforts, the three republics can not only overcome the crisis, they can reach positions such that even the "elite club" will have to reckon with each of them. Then G-7 could even become G-10.

Ambartsumov on Council of Europe Membership

PM1407115193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jul 93 pp 1, 7

[Interview with Ye. Ambartsumov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, by diplomatic observer Sergey Svistunov; place and date not given: "The Russian Bear and the European Tower"]

[Text] Talks have been held in Strasbourg between R. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, and Mrs. C. Lalumiere, secretary general of the Council of Europe. They concerned the problem of Russia's admission to the Council of Europe. At the end of the talks R. Khasbulatov made a tough statement saying, in particular: "The preconditions set by this international organization—the adoption of a new constitution and the holding of parliamentary elections—are essentially interference in Russian internal affairs and are ridiculous... I am not an advocate of demanding the speediest admission of our country to the Council of Europe if the organization is not yet ready for such a decision."

The "Russian question" arose sharply in early July at the session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly held right there in Strasbourg. The main event was a demarche by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet delegation about what the Russian representatives regard as the artificial obstacles to Moscow's attainment of full membership of this international organization. There was particular perplexity at the precondition put forward for Russia's admission to the Council of Europe—the holding of new parliamentary elections and the adoption of a new Russian Federation Constitution.

At the time we refrained from hasty comment and awaited the return of our delegation so we could clarify at first hand a few less than clear points. Naturally, we turned first to the delegation leader, Ye. Ambartsumov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations.

[Svistunov] Yevgeniy Arshakovich, first of all I would like to establish whether the protest was signed by all 13 members of the delegation? After all, its membership—ranging from Baburin and Rybkin to Shustov and Yakimenko—probably reflects the entire political spectrum of parliament, which is usually a very long way from consensus.

[Ambartsumov] Just imagine, everybody signed. We made three statements in Strasbourg: about Russian membership of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, about Estonia's violations of international human rights pacts, and a protest at the missile bombardment of Baghdad by U.S. aircraft. There was indeed rather heated debate about the latter document. But all the same, everybody without exception signed it.

[Svistunov] So far as I am aware, there is a particular set of rules that must be fulfilled as a precondition for entry to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. They are rather general: recognition of the UN human rights charter, compliance with the norms of a democratic structure of society, and so forth. But there was no precedent for demanding new early elections or a new constitution for a country.

[Ambartsumov] That is precisely what we said in our statement. When Russia was granted the status of a special guest in the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly on 5 May last year, there seemed to be every prospect that our country would become a full member of the Parliamentary Assembly. We immediately submitted an application.

The new chapter on human rights in the Russian Federation basic law embodies the fundamental provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European convention on basic human rights and freedoms. The institution of the presidency has been introduced, the Constitutional Court is operating smoothly, and the principle of the separation of the different branches of power is being effectively implemented. National legislation on regional and local self-government has been elaborated in accordance with documents of the Council of Europe and other international organizations. Parliamentary elections were held in 1990 on a democratic basis, with multiple candidates holding different political views. Miguel Angel Martinez, president of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Mrs. Lalumiere, and other leaders of the organization have visited our country. They have met with members of the Constitutional Court, parliamentarians, and representatives of executive organs of power. Everything seemed to be going smoothly, the visitors had no problem with anything.

Then all of a sudden there are these unexpected and unjustified new conditions for membership. Applying to Russia alone.

[Svistunov] Isn't it odd that, while the democratic nature of the last parliamentary elections in Russia is called into question on the grounds that they were held in Soviet times, under a communist regime, not a word is said about the legality of the election of Boris Yeltsin as president of Russia? Although that took place under the same conditions and also during the era of the USSR?

[Ambartsumov] That is a point. And we noted in our statement that the new body of deputies elected none other than Boris Nikolayevich as the first chairman of the Russian parliament. And confirmed Yeltsin's candidacy in the elections for Russian Federation president.

However, even that is not the most important thing. No one is against further constitutional improvements. As laid down, there will be new parliamentary elections in Russia. But we are opposed to ordinary, normal democratic internal changes for any state being turned into a specific additional condition for admission to the Council of Europe or any other body.

The dual standard finds expression primarily in the fact that some countries gain fast-track admission, but the admission of Russia to the Council of Europe is being artificially delayed. Despite the fact, for instance, that French President Francois Mitterrand, FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and other European leaders have publicly declared that Russia should be admitted to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly without delay.

On the other hand, Estonia had no problems with being admitted. Yet by its laws on elections to local organs of self-government and on aliens it is now directly contravening the documents of the Helsinki, Copenhagen, and Moscow CSCE conferences and international human rights agreements. The Russian Supreme Soviet and Foreign Ministry warned the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly that Estonia could regard the fact of admission to Council of Europe membership as a virtual green light for its discriminatory policy regarding the so-called "nonindigenous population," and could even toughen it up. Which is what has happened. And the example of Estonia is inspiring neighboring Latvia to similar illegal measures.

And what about the Czech Republic and Slovakia? The old constitution is in force in both states and elections were held there during the "era of the old regime." So why have they been admitted while we have not!

[Svistunov] What is Yeltsin's reaction to this situation?

[Ambartsumov] He is reacting correctly. He has stated that he will attend the planned European summit in Vienna in October only if Russia is at long last admitted to the Council of Europe.

[Svistunov] What do you think the Council of Europe's motives are in placing such barriers in Russia's way? In a recent issue of FORUM, a journal published by the Council of Europe, in an interview with Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly President M.A. Martinez, whom you mentioned, I came across the following lines: "I must admit that this whole Russian question bothers me... We should ask the Russians whether they realize that this (admission to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly—S.S.) will set in motion a process that may take them considerably further than they think. We must clearly intimate to them that to enter the Council of Europe is not merely to join just another institution, but to agree with a very definite approach toward building the 'European home.' Germany after reunification might have wanted to acquire the status of a superpower. But it preferred to remain a member of the European chorus. Is Russia ready for this?.." And he goes on to hint rather frankly that he is afraid of internal political stability in Russia.

[Ambartsumov] With our internal strife in recent months we have certainly supplied the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly with such arguments ourselves. They were also voiced during our meeting in Strasbourg with Martinez and with the British Conservative Atkinson, the head of three Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly committees, who will shortly be coming to Russia on a kind of "inspection." However, I think that the factor of internal political instability is only one partial point. For instance, the position of the government in Bulgaria is scarcely stronger, but it was admitted to the Council of Europe. The point is that Europe is frightened of Russia's huge size and its problems. It's like in the children's story about the tower: A bear comes along, he is allowed in, and he wrecks the whole place. That is what they are really afraid of.

[Svistunov] Should Russia anyhow be seeking so persistently to join such a huge number of various international organizations? After all, this will entail great additional expenditure in the form of entrance fees and annual dues. And regular participation in the work of these organizations also costs a considerable amount. For instance, how much does membership of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly cost us? How much would admission to the Council of Europe cost? Ukraine already ranks among persistent defaulters in payments to the CSCE. It is even being said that it is time to expel it.

[Ambartsumov] I don't think Ukraine will be thrown out of the CSCE. Many countries are late in making payments to international organizations. The Americans constantly do this. But Russia's admission to the Council of Europe would help to deepen democratic processes in our country. And the organization also has financial reserves that could help Russia.

As for the specific figures for Russia's payments to various interparliamentary organizations, I do not have them. You should seek explanations from the Foreign Ministry, they look after this matter. [Ambartsumov ends]

Okay, let us do so. Could Mr. Yu. Chulkov, chief of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Currency and Finance Administration, tell PRAVDA and at the same time the public how much this "opening of windows" onto Europe costs us?

I privately consulted a Foreign Ministry expert ("But on no account give my name: Kozyrev would fire me that same day!").

"The main members of the Council of Europe—Britain, France, Germany, and Italy—account for 50 percent of the organization's budget spending," he explained. "Thus by becoming its fifth 'pillar,' Russia would pay something like 10 percent. I am not going to give you the exact figure, not because I do not know, but because I am afraid that in that case they would be able to 'finger' me. However, believe me, it is very very sizable.

"After all, there is a huge staff of functionaries with a mass of branches and ramifications. There is the European Court, and a colossal volume of expert studies is carried out. But the Foreign Ministry and other power structures prefer to remain silent about this aspect of the matter. Because, despite all assurances to the contrary, the 'hunt for membership cards' in international organizations pursues primarily political interests: to use 'international prestige' to prop up the existing regime in Russia."

Khasbulatov on Prospects for Joining

LD1407224493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2055 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Arkadiy Krasnoschekov]

[Text] Strasbourg July 15 TASS—Russian parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, who leads a delegation of the Russian parliament, currently on a visit to Strasbourg to establish closer contacts with the Council of Europe, said that there was an intensive and fruitful exchange of opinions on a wide range of international problems.

Khasbulatov pointed out that West European parliamentarians had displayed a particular interest in problems connected with the adoption of a new constitution, the course of economic reforms and relations between federal and regional governing bodies in Russia.

Asked by ITAR-TASS about prospects for the development of ties between Russian parliamentarians and the European parliament, Khasbulatov said that the talks in Strasbourg focused on preparations for signing an agreement on trade and economic cooperation between Russia and the European Community.

Khasbulatov said that under such conditions the Russian parliament should bring Russia's legislature in line with world standards.

On the first day of the visit to Strasbourg Khasbulatov met Secretary-General of the Council of Europe Catherine Lalumiere.

Asked if the visit had promoted Russia's joining the Council of Europe, comprising 31 European states, sooner than hoped for, Khasbulatov said that "Russia might and might not be a member of regional unions, but this does not relieve it of interaction with other states on the entire spectrum of international problems, no matter whether it is the Yugoslav settlement of the protection of the environment."

Glazyev Warns of Emerging 'Trade War' With West

PM1407140993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jul 93 p 6

[ITAR-TASS report: "EC-Russia: Start of 'Trade War.' Russian Federation Minister of Foreign Economic Relations on Problems of East-West Trade Relations"]

[Text] Recently, at an international forum discussing problems of East-West trade, Sergey Glazyev, Russia's minister of foreign economic relations, described market practices on the part of the West as unscrupulous. And he described the state of trade relations between the EC and Russia as the "start of a trade war."

Other participants in the forum also sharply criticized the Western countries, primarily the European Community, for artificially placing customs, tariff, and other barriers in the way of goods entering West European markets. The question of the subsidizing in various ways of Western exports to East European markets was also raised.

I would define the present time, Sergey Glazyev said, as one of sobering up about the prospects of the post-communist countries' integration in the world market, and also about the real potential of the developed Western countries to aid us. It is not all that difficult to provide credits when you have spare funds, especially as credits are repaid. For instance, Russia has pledged to repay all the debts of the former USSR. Thus credits are not only repayable, but also a way of stimulating your own production. It is far more difficult for the West to concede that it has fully fledged partners and rivals in the shape of the former socialist countries. It has proved unprepared for this.

Nowadays Western and especially EC trade policy toward the East European countries is probably even tougher than it is toward Russia. Eastern Europe embarked earlier on the path of market transformations, and the paradox is that the West is now finding that, now matter how much they decried the centralized economy for its inefficiency, many sectors in the East European countries have turned out to be entirely competitive according to world standards. Unfortunately, instead of supporting such production units in Eastern Europe and the CIS, the European Community is seeking to squeeze them by limiting access to its markets for the relevant goods.

While our relations with the Western countries can be regarded as excellent in the political sphere and good in the financial sphere, in trade they are more like hostilities. But today so far as we are concerned trade is the top priority, since we cannot emerge from the structural crisis without the faster growth of competitive production units. No matter how many credits we are given, they will in no way bring us closer to overcoming the structural crisis unless it is possible to expand competitive sectors: They alone can form the basis for economic growth.

So this problem, which became so acute only relatively recently and which many people are still not fully aware of, requires detailed analysis and discussion at a high political level.

Aid to Developing Countries in 1992 Reported

MK1407130693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Russia Aids Everyone"]

[Text] An information note signed by Finance Minister Boris Fedorov on aid to developing countries in 1992 was circulated in the Supreme Soviet yesterday. According to the Finance Ministry data contained in the note, last year Russia made available to developing countries $17 billion (21.4 percent of gross domestic product), whereas the United States provided $9.91 billion (0.17 percent), Germany $7.6 billion (0.39 percent), Japan $11.3 billion (0.3 percent), and France $6.83 billion (0.56 percent.) Mr. Fedorov maintains that these figures show what the "aid to CIS countries in the shape of credits, cut-rate prices, and the transfer of cash" cost us.

Constitution Issues

Rumyantsev Wants Joint Group To Finalize Constitution

LD1407204193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1959 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—Secretary of the Constitutional Commission Oleg Rumyantsev believes that presently the main task is "to persuade the Constitutional Convention, Supreme Soviet and Constitutional Commission to set up a small joint group which is to finalize the draft constitution proceeding from the drafts worked out by the Constitutional Convention and the Constitutional Commission". Rumyantsev told TASS that this draft should be submitted to the November 1993 Congress of People's Deputies "at least in first reading, at most - for adoption".

According to the secretary, the draft written by the Constitutional Convention has "its advantages and disadvantages". The main advantage is that it "has nothing in common with the initial presidential draft, which was authoritarian in character and not aimed at building a constitutional system". The constitutional system submits to law rather than politics, he stressed.

The disadvantage of this draft, according to Rumyantsev, is that "the Constitutional Convention is dominated by a single political party - the ruling one".

The secretary of the Constitutional Commission believes it will become evident before the November Congress of People's Deputies that to be successful, the constitutional process needs three component parts, which are the Constitutional Convention, the Supreme Soviet and the Constitutional Commission. Only this alliance can submit an agreed draft to the congress. According to Rumyantsev, any version worked out by the Constitutional Convention may be rejected by lawmakers just because one party does not like the other. The secretary reported that he addressed in mid-June the Russian president and parliament chairman with a proposal to set up a joint group including members of the Constitutional Convention and the Supreme Soviet.

Popov: Constitution Opens Way to Democratic State

LD1407131793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1224 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—The approval of the draft fundamental law of the Russian Federation opens the way to its elaboration by all political forces, Gavriil Popov, chairman of the Russian Democratic Reform Movement (RDRM) told ITAR-TASS.

"From now on the subjects of the federation, the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) political parties and movements may introduce their adjustments to the draft constitution," he said.

Popov, who is also a member of the Presidential Council, believes that the draft fundamental law is primarily the constitution of a democratic state. He reckons the inherent initial conditions for a normal federative set-up of Russia, the clear-cut principle of the separation of powers and the orientation towards a presidential-and-parliamentary republic option, which accords with the peculiarities of Russia, among the document's strong points.

Touching upon ways for the adoption of a new constitution, Popov expressed the conviction that "it is essential to cover the legitimate road of its endorsement to the end—to refer the draft constitution to the parliament and, subsequently, to the congress".

If this fails to bring the desired result, then, Popov believes, the president would have two ways for the adoption of a new fundamental law: On the one hand, a "tough" way, under which he may arrange for a poll among the population, and, on the other hand, a "soft" way the essence of which is in concluding an agreement with the parliament on the adoption of a provisional constitutional act for the transitional period.

Yeltsin Wants To Make Conference 'Permanent'

PM1407144993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

["Constitutional Conference" report by Aleksandr Linkov: "Debate Over. Forget It"]

[Text] "You have been debating for a whole month, so no debating today," Russian President Boris Yeltsin concluded in his address to the Constitutional Conference participants. "Let us approve it!.."

So the draft new constitution is ready. In the president's opinion, it meets all the essential requirements. Most important, it can serve as a guarantor of political stability in society and will enable the economic reforms to move ahead. Everyone needs this constitution, the president believes. Russian citizens above all.

But do the citizens know this?

The report lavished praise on the Constitutional Conference participants: What we saw was professionalism, unity, and the prototype of a future parliament. If so, why not make this "gathering" a permanent one?

Incidentally, after yesterday's approval of the draft constitution by the conference participants it will also go to the republic Supreme Soviets and kray and oblast soviets for approval. And then? The president is saying nothing about that for the moment, since he did not even mention the organ of power which is the Congress of

People's Deputies, the president's comrades in the parliamentary Reform Coalition, who planned to hold a Congress on 30 July at all costs.

Yet another curious detail: The conference participants were asked to form a line and sign their names "as an historical record" of their authorship: The Constitution has been written to last for all time, so your names should be preserved for posterity.

When the conference was over, a participant from Sakha (Yakutia) was very definite: We do not intend to play the rubberstamp game, you do not do that with a document as important as this; we voted against.

A. Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetia Supreme Soviet, was cautious in his assessment of what had gone on. He explained that that there was an understanding with the president: The draft constitution will go to the republics, to sessions of kray and oblast soviets for approval.

So a new structure—the Constitutional Conference—has appeared in the political arena: More than likely the president's team wants and will try to use this body to retain its own power, by turning it into a permanent conference.

Political Issues

Soskovets Chairs Government Presidium Session

PM1507092793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Necessary To Take Processes in Society Into Consideration"]

[Text] It was precisely this idea which became the main theme of yesterday's session of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers Presidium which was conducted under Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets's chairmanship.

The cost of 1 kilogram of bread may rise to 139 rubles, L. Cheshinskiy, president of the "Roskhlebprodukt" contract corporation stated at the session. According to him this may happen as a result of a rise in purchase prices for grain and the abolition of subsidy rates for its import. Naturally, the session's participants questioned E. Pamfilova, minister of social protection for the population, as to what policy her ministry plans to implement. The plan she described was taken into consideration. It was decided in particular to form an interdepartmental commission to produce a radical reform of pension provision.

The fuel and energy complex is the sector of our economy which earns most foreign currency. This both heartens and alarms Yuriy Shafranik, minister for fuel and power engineering. The sector is capable of supplying the country with the necessary amount of oil; however, sufficient financial and investment resources are necessary for this.

Zorkin Interviewed on Future of Russian Federation

MK1407123093 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 29, 18 Jul 93 (Signed to Press 13 Jul) p A8

[Interview with Valeriy Zorkin, Constitutional Court chairman, by Vladimir Orlov; place and date not given: "Zorkin Cautions Federation Against Suicide"]

[Text] The question of whether the declaration of the Urals and Vologda republics is legitimate is within the Constitutional Court's terms of reference. How would its judges act if called upon to hear "a case of Russian republics?"

Its chairman, Valeriy Zorkin, once defined his position. Answering a question on whether it would be possible to recognize, say, a Mordvinian Kingdom, should one be proclaimed, he replied: "Under the current constitution, the Mordvinian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] is part of Russia. Its changed status could only be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Congress. A different solution has no legal force." Similarly, the decision by the Sverdlovsk Oblast Soviet, unconfirmed by the Congress, is merely a political declaration of intent, rather than a legal document. This approach is shared by the majority of court members.

At the same time the judges's positions on the status of the republics comprising Russia differ appreciably. In private conversations, some of them back the idea heard during the Constitutional Conference: to remove the definition of a republic as a "sovereign state," thus making them equal in status with the oblasts and krays—"state-territorial entities." Valeriy Zorkin spoke resolutely against this approach in a MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI interview shortly before the proclamation of the Urals Republic.

[Zorkin] Those who propose such a step today must be living in a world of pure abstractions. This can be proclaimed as an ideal. But one cannot be oblivious of the realities in which we live. I do not know how the situation may change 200 or 300 years from now, but proposing to downgrade the rights of the republics today is tantamount to committing suicide. It means breaking up Russia.

[Orlov] Is not the inclusion of the Federation Treaty in a new constitution and the conversion from a constitutional federation to a treaty-based federation a step toward its breakup?

[Zorkin] One could have argued about whether a Federation Treaty was needed before it had been signed. But it is there. It is tantamount to madness to demand now that a new constitution should strike out this treaty. Treaties on delimitation of powers (known under the name of a Federation Treaty) are now a reality—republics, krays, and oblasts have equally added their signatures to them.

Once Russia signed the treaty it really turned from a constitutional federation into a federation based on treaties. I do not view this step as a goal in itself, but rather as a means to cement Russia.

[Orlov] In the meantime, separatism is alive, emanating from the republics. You did say: "It is Tatarstan, Chechnya, with all the others to follow...."

[Zorkin] Still it is precisely the republics that are able to become a factor for uniting Russia rather than breaking it up. Unlike the USSR breakup, the heads of the republics comprising Russia seem to visualize possible consequences of a breakup. They are capable of forming a genuinely federative state "from below." My feeling is that the process is taking precisely this course. Those blind to this will be swept off the political stage. Therefore, federal authorities should not eradicate the republics' sovereignty—it would be the same as taking your foot off the brake as you go into a curve.

[Orlov] The federal authorities have found in the Constitutional Court a guarantor of Russia's territorial integrity. To what extent are federation components interested in your work?

[Zorkin] No less than the center, I think. The other question is how well they are represented in the court. We have two vacancies. I think they could be filled considering the interests of the republics. Surely, judges are elected as private citizens—that is, they represent no parties, structures, or regions. But the republics could recommend some professional jurists.

More, I support the republics' initiative on expanding membership of the Constitutional Court from 15 to 18. That would well serve to combine the principle of irremovability of judges and renewal of the court's composition. The question of expanding the court by putting in it representatives of federation components could be solved in the very near future without waiting for the adoption of a new constitution. [Zorkin ends]

Ever since his first day in the office of Constitutional Court chairman, Valeriy Zorkin has advocated tough measures to preserve the unity and territorial integrity of Russia. He repeatedly accused federal authorities of "not interfering" and not opposing separatism of individual republics by the power of the state. Is it accidental that he should speak in much softer terms today?

Government Officials' 13 Jul Activities Outlined

PM1407134593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Excerpts] **Meetings, Visits, Conferences**

Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin's work schedule is more than packed. Many working problems probably have to be resolved before a big Council of Ministers session. Thus, early in the morning the head of government chaired a conference in which Vice Premiers Anatoliy Chubays, Vladimir Shumeyko, Boris Fedorov, Sergey Shakhray, Aleksandr Shokhin, and Yuriy Yarov participated. Following this conference Viktor Chernomyrdin and his deputies held another one—on questions directly linked with the preparation of the Council of Ministers session "On the Socioeconomic Situation of the Russian Federation and Measures To Stabilize It." All members of the Council of Ministers attended this conference along with the vice premiers.

During the afternoon the premier participated in the plenary session of the Constitutional Conference. In the evening the head of government received Metallgesellschaft President Schimmelbusch.

First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov headed for Novosibirsk, where economic and production problems will be discussed with enterprise leaders in this vast region.

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko participated in the two conferences chaired by the head of government in the morning and then attended the plenary session of the Constitutional Conference.

Virtually all the vice premiers, with the exception of Aleksandr Zaveryukha, attended the [first] conference chaired by the head of government and attended the plenary session of the Constitutional Conference in the afternoon.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha flew to the United States, where a UN conference on open-sea fishing is taking place. The vice premier heads the Russian delegation to this conference. [passage omitted]

Appointments

By directive of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government Ivan Materov has been appointed Russian Federation first deputy minister of foreign economic relations. Ivan Sergeyevich previously worked as Russian Federation first deputy minister of the economy.

Also by directive of the Council of Ministers, German Kuznetsov has been appointed first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Economic Cooperation With Commonwealth Member-States.

Documents

By decree of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government measures to stabilize the work of Russian Federation timber industry complex enterprises have been formulated. It is decreed, in particular, that the Ministry of Finance, in conjunction with the Russian State Committee for Economic Cooperation With Commonwealth Member-Countries and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, adopt essential measures to pay off the debts owed to Russian federation timber industry complex enterprises for timber products dispatched to CIS states. In addition, the decree provides for the examination of a draft presidential edict on authorizing timber industry enterprises to retain up to 80 percent of their foreign currency receipts from deliveries of their own output for export. [passage omitted]

14 Jul Activities

PM1507111093 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Excerpts] **Meetings, Talks, Trips**

Russian Council of Ministers Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin arrived in the FRG yesterday for a three-day working visit. He is accompanied by Oleg Lobov, first deputy head of the cabinet and minister of the economy, and Anatoliy Chubays, vice premier and chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property. [passage omitted]

The Russian Federation prime minister is expected to return to Moscow Saturday night.

The main "domestic" burden falls on the shoulders of First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets. And his work schedule is evidence of this. Thus, yesterday morning the Russian first deputy premier held a conference at which problems of the state of communications and their development were examined. Then Oleg Soskovets saw off the head of government on his trip to the FRG.

In the afternoon the first vice premier met with Russian and foreign journalists at a press conference devoted to the introduction of free prices for coal, shale, and products from their processing at coal industry enterprises.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin arrived in Krasnoyarsk on a working visit. The main aim of his trip is to tackle questions relating to the development of the very rich Angar regions. In Krasnoyarsk the vice premier will also participate in a session of the Russian-Mongolian intergovernmental commission.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov took part in a session of the organizing committee for the preparation and holding of public events to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Kursk, and then attended a Supreme Soviet session. In the evening the vice premier was invited to a reception at the French Embassy.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha is at the UN conference on fishing on the high seas. ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI wrote in its last issue about the tasks of the Russian delegation to this conference, headed by the vice premier.

Local Authorities

The Altay Kray Administration has started drafting a program to set up small-scale power generation for remote areas. The project for the Dzhazatorskaya small hydroelectric power station in an inaccessible valley in the far south of the Altay has passed a state expert examination. A project is being drawn up for the Yazulinskaya hydroelectric power station in the far southeast of the republic, for a village which is linked to the outside world only by mountain tracks. In formulating the program it is proposed to make use of small hydroelectric power stations without dams, based on designs proposed by Siberian scientists.

At the Orel Oblast Administration, a conference of control and auditing service workers was held. The local authorities are concerned about the fact that since the beginning of the year embezzlements and shortfalls of various kinds have reached a total of 46 million rubles in Orel Oblast. Thus, at the Orel Electronic Instruments Plant the auditors found losses of 28 million rubles, and uncovered financial irregularities at nine small enterprises set up under the plant's auspices. Only just over 30 percent of the sums lost have been repaid to the state.

Government Decrees, Directives Reported

PM1507092993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Jul 93 p 3

[Unattributed feature: "Government Desk"]

[Text] **Monday 5 July**

The Russian Government has approved the draft agreement between the Russian Federation Government and the Ukrainian Government on the recycling of nuclear warheads and the draft agreement on the status of "S-class" missile installations deployed in Ukraine, both submitted by the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, the Defense Ministry, and the Russian Federation Ministry for Nuclear Energy. The relevant Russian Federation Government resolution envisages that the agreements reached during mutual consultations will be signed at the level of the republics' heads of government.

At the proposal of the Russian Ministry of Culture coordinated with the government of Moscow, the Union of Russian Architects, and the All-Russian Society for the Conservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments, the urban development and architectural structures situated on the territory of the All-Russian Exhibition Center have, by a directive of the Russian Federation Government, been included on the list of historical and cultural monuments to be guarded as monuments of state importance.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray has signed a government directive "on the institution of a permanent mission of the Evenki Autonomous Okrug under the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government." At the proposal of the Evenki Autonomous Okrug administration Anatoliy Safronovich Safronov has been appointed leader of the mission.

Having agreed with the proposal of the Russian Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for the Administration of State Property] and the labor collective of the Moscow "Gorizont" experimental design bureau, the

Russian Federation Government has issued a directive on this bureau's privatization. In accordance with this document 50 percent of shares plus one share of the open-type joint stock company created on its basis are recorded as federal property for three years. The Russian Goskomimushchestvo has been instructed to privatize the Moscow "Gorizont" experimental design bureau in accordance with existing legislation.

Tuesday 6 July

Wednesday 7 July

A decree has been adopted "on the signing of the memorandum on cooperation in the field of industrial development between the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government and the United Nations on industrial development." The Russian Foreign Ministry has been instructed, on reaching the relevant agreements with the United Nations, to sign this memorandum, giving authorization if necessary for the introduction to its text of changes and additions which are not of a fundamental nature.

With a view to improving the Russian Federation's foreign economic ties and ensuring state support for foreign trade, the Russian Council of Ministers-Government has adopted a decision "on the formation of the Russian export-import bank." A Government decree has determined that the initial size of the bank's incorporation capital will be 51 billion rubles and its organizational form will be a joint stock company of the closed type. The controlling block of shares belongs to the state.

Viktor Chernomyrdin has signed a decree in accordance with which the functions of the Russian Federation executive organization for implementing the 1 June 1990 agreement between the USSR Government and the U.S. Government on cooperation in the study of the world ocean have been assigned to the Russian Federation Ministry of Science and Technical Policy. In accordance with the agreement with the U.S. side, the joint Soviet-U.S. commission for cooperation in the study of the world ocean formed by the above-mentioned agreement has been reorganized as the joint Russian-U.S. commission.

The Russian Federation Government has approved the draft of a long-term economic, industrial, and scientific and technical cooperation program between the Russian Federation and the Portuguese Republic submitted by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and coordinated with the Portuguese side. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations has been instructed to hold talks with the Portuguese side on the definitive agreement of this draft and to sign it on behalf of the Russian Federation Government.

Thursday 8 July

Friday 9 July

Having agreed with the proposal of the Ulyanovsk Oblast administration, the Russian Government has issued a directive "on the institution of a mission of the Ulyanovsk Oblast administration under the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government." At the request of the oblast administration Gennadiy Aleksandrovich Savinov has been appointed to the post of mission leader.

A directive of Russian Government First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets has instructed the Russian Federation Goskomimushchestvo to privatize the Arzamas instrument building plant (Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast) and the "Nauka" scientific production enterprise (Moscow). Twenty percent of the shares of the joint stock enterprises which are being created remain federal property for three years.

It has also been decided to privatize the "Kvant" plant (Rostov-na-Donu), the Omsk equipment plant, and the Chelyabinsk equipment plant. A directive of the Russian Federation Government has assigned the privatization of these enterprises to the Russian Goskomimushchestvo.

Yeltsin, Khasbulatov 'Unhappy' With Chernomyrdin

PM1507085193 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 16, 14 Jul 93 (signed to press 13 Jul 93) p 2

[SHESTOY ETAZH report: "Yeltsin and Khasbulatov Both Unhappy With Chernomyrdin"]

[Text] Informed circles are noting that lately both President Yeltsin and Speaker Khasbulatov have increasingly been showing their dissatisfaction with Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Yeltsin is unhappy about the fact that the premier has still not submitted an extensive program of market reforms, but is just bringing into the Cabinet of Ministers new people drawn from the former nomenklatura, strengthening the position within the government of the supporters of a state-regulated economy. (The latest appointee is Polyanichko, vice premier for regional policy, who was a former adviser in Afghanistan and a former Communist Party secretary in Azerbaijan under Mutalibov).

For his part, Khasbulatov does not like Chernomyrdin's independence and the strengthening within power structures of the Chernomyrdin-Lobov-Soskovets-Shafranik-Volskiy-Gerashchenko alliance, in which Khasbulatov does not play an important part.

The economic conference planned by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is designed, first, to counter the Chernomyrdin government's economic policy with the

Supreme Soviet's own economic program and, second, to highlight personnel alternatives.

In the opinion of the sources, Yeltsin and Khasbulatov are worried about the increased strength in power structures of former influential partocrats, their increasing alliance with the technocrats, and the fact that the leaders of the power ministries seem to have found common ground, bypassing both the president and the speaker.

It is quite possible that we can expect coordinated action from Yeltsin and Khasbulatov against Chernomyrdin and his people in the government in the very near future. It is most likely that parliament will be used to this end, since Chernomyrdin is opposed there by both the democrats and the opposition.

Yeltsin 'Irritated' With Grachev's POSTFACTUM Comments

PM1407182993 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 16, 14 Jul 93 (signed to press 13 Jul 93) p 2

[SHESTOY ETAZH report: "Yeltsin Unhappy About Grachev's POSTFACTUM Interview"]

[Text] We have learned from sources close to the defense minister that it was only on the eve of Yeltsin's departure for Tokyo that Pavel Grachev was able to defuse the tension in relations with the president that had arisen during the previous week.

Grachev made Yeltsin very irritated with him as a result of his interview to POSTFACTUM, in which the defense minister criticized the agreement signed by the Russian and Ukrainian presidents on the Black Sea Fleet. According to the source, Yeltsin told Grachev off in very strong language for having been "excessively independent in his assessment of his commander in chief's actions."

Grachev got out of the situation by pinning the blame on Viktor Akimov, POSTFACTUM's military correspondent, who had "distorted and freely interpreted the defense minister's words."

Parliament Members Probe 'Secret Services'

LD1407212993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By A. Peslyak, including recorded remarks by V. Trubnikov, deputy director of foreign military intelligence services, and Y. Kozhokin, chairman of Supreme Soviet Subcommittee for Questions of Defense and Security; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] For the first time in history our secret services have been under the scrutiny not of the military people but members of parliament. The main conclusion was: In spite of the complicated situation, the Russian foreign intelligence service has survived and is carrying out some of the most important functions of ensuring the country's security within the legal and constitutional framework.

The 12 deputies and experts involved did not aim to intrude in the holy of holies—the illegal [nelegalnyy] agent network. However, they talked with many of the secret service agents, analyzed the budget and even, for the first time ever, carried out a sociological survey. They found out that the agents want to continue serving their fatherland, they enjoy their work, and know the laws. Of course, there are some black sheep among them, like everywhere else, people who betray state secrets and their friends. But nobody trades in archives here.

The new fields to which they devote their efforts, such as the prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, international terrorism, and illegal drugs trafficking require the wealth of experience accumulated by special services of such countries as the United States and Latin American countries.

[Trubnikov] We keep on gaining more experience. Naturally, we mainly rely on intelligence gathered abroad.

[Kozhokin] The mechanism for using this intelligence has practically broken down. Why take risks and waste money if people do not know how to use this intelligence or simply do not want to use it?

Further on 'Examination'

LD1407143693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1322 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—Despite a complex situation in the country, the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service has survived, operates, and, the main thing, performs the necessary functions within Russian laws and the Constitution. Such as the result of a parliamentary examination held for the first time in all the years of the existence of the Russian and even Soviet Intelligence Services. The results of the parliamentary examination have been summed up by Yevgeniy Kozhokin, chairman of the Parliamentary Subcommittee for International Security and Intelligence, at a news conference held here today.

The parliamentary commission which included representatives of several groups of deputies checked documents, the budget, the legal basis of the activity of the Foreign Intelligence Service and conducted a sociological survey among staff of the service, also those working abroad.

Regarding the results of anonymous polling of staffers of the Foreign Intelligence Service, Kozhokin said that "the overwhelming majority of respondents expressed the readiness to continue their work, although a certain percentage expressed the wish to get a discharge, mainly because of inadequate pay".

Asked about the trustworthiness of publications that have appeared in Germany of late about the alleged transfer by the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service of archives of the Intelligence Service of the former GDR to German Secret Services, Vyacheslav Trubnikov, first deputy director of the Foreign Intelligence Service, who participated in the news conference, said that this is sheer lie. He said such publications serve the purposes of political struggle in Germany and compel agents of the GDR Interior Ministry to own up their blame. Trubnikov noted he believes that counterintelligence of the FRG may thus be trying to cover up real sources for obtaining documents of the Security Ministry and even the KGB. In this connection he expressed perplexity why leaders of the German Secret Services who have "quite stable contacts with the Foreign Intelligence Service have not denounced these publications.

Paper Claims 'Atomic Bombs' Available in Moscow

PM1407174993 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 16, 14 Jul 93 (signed to press 13 Jul 93) p 1

[Unattributed report: "Atomic Bombs Can Be Acquired Privately in Russia"]

[Text] We would repeat our headline—atomic bombs can be acquired privately in Russia. You can obtain them complete or—if you are short of money or really want to build one yourself—piece by piece. We are planning to show [a note states that details will be published in future editions] that the bomb or its components are commodities. We proved this in the course of a two-month investigation, during which we posed as representatives of a major foreign businessman. Regrettably, we are forced to omit a number of details, names, and addresses from this report for fear that some maniac might use the facts we have collected and, one fine day, declare himself to be a nuclear power.

We were offered a bomb very easily. Just as socks might be sold in a hosiery store. If you don't like the californium and the antiradar coating, the salesman said, I have another complete warhead. From an SS-20. And he shoved a photograph under our noses—there was a nuclear warhead in some garage with gasoline cans in the background. Admittedly, we had never seen one before and were inclined to believe him.

"$150,000 and it's yours," the salesman said—"it's here in Moscow...."

Grachev Bars Army Reform Group From Conference

MK1507093093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jul 93 p 1

[Nikolay Ulyanov report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Defense Minister May Be Fined"]

[Text] Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent has been told by Vitaliy Urazhtsev, senior coordinator of the Reform of the Army deputy group, that the group's coordination council comprised of 215 people's deputies of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet sent a government cable yesterday addressed to Valentin Panichev, head of the chief administration for oversight of the observance of laws in the Russian Federation Armed Forces. The cable demands that Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev be called to account by an administrative order, the reason being the latter's violation of the law "On the Status of a People's Deputy." The advice to send such a cable was given by the Yevgeniy Lisov, Russian first deputy general prosecutor. The background of the conflict is this: A three-day conference of deputy commanders for work with personnel opened in the Kantemirovskaya Division yesterday. The conference was ordered by the defense minister and attended by nearly 250 officers. Learning about it, members of the Reform of the Army coordination council wanted to attend the conference only to be told no by Pavel Grachev. The deputies thought the refusal illegal and made an attempt yesterday to attend the conference anyway. But they were stopped at the Kantemirovskaya Division checkpoint by top Army officials who said they were acting on Pavel Grachev's personal instruction.

People's Deputy Bocharov To Run for President

MK1507110093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jul 93 p 2

[Indira Dunayeva report under "Elections" rubric: "Mikhail Bocharov Intends To Run for Russian Presidency, Promises To Promote National Entrepreneurship"]

[Text] Yesterday at the international press center and club in Moscow a press conference was held by Mikhail Bocharov, Russian Federation people's deputy and chairman of the International Russian Club, who announced that he is going to run for president of Russia. At the same time he did not say in what way he is preparing for his election campaign and with what political organizations he intends to affiliate. "The International Russian Club is already a bloc in itself," Bocharov said. Although the club's membership is approximately 60 people, Bocharov considers it a substantial political force since its members "are working in virtually all structures of the supreme executive and legislative authority."

The club has its own economic program and its draft constitution, which envisions that Russia should consist of guberniyas, each of which should have its own legislative assembly.

Yet, before a constitution could be adopted it would be necessary to address economic problems. In accordance with the club's program, this could be done within a limited time, almost within a year. "Russia is the sole country which can afford to become a tax- free state," Mikhail Bocharov stated. "Its budget could be formed as a result of centralized activity and state monopoly of oil, gas, nonferrous, and rare-earth metals." At the same time a new credit policy is proposed, as well as a revision of the privatization system.

The club's president regards as the Gaydar government's main mistake the fact that the state was disinclined to administer state property, as a result of which a "pure" market ideology emerged.

Furthermore, according to Bocharov, it is necessary to conduct a policy favorable for the development of national and not foreign businesses, which he intends to do in the event of his victory.

Yeltsin Decree Forms Ecological Safety Commission

LD1407131193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1223 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—One of the main tasks of an inter-agency Ecological Safety Commission of the Russian Federation Security Council is to prepare proposals on matters concerning the domestic and foreign ecological policy of the Russian Federation and strategic problems of state ecological security. The commission was formed by a decree which President Boris Yeltsin signed on Tuesday.

The commission's main functions are in particular to evaluate domestic and external ecologial threats to the vital interests of the individual, society and the state, and to prepare proposals aimed at resolving ecological problems in volved in the protection of the population's health.

The commission will be a standing working body at the Russian Federation Security Council. The commission is chaired by presidential adviser Aleksey Yablokov.

New 'Ecological Troops' Created

PM1407160793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jul 93 First Edition p 8

[Report by Kim Smirnov: "Defense Ministry Creates New Troops—Ecological Troops"]

[Text] It is planned to create the first experimental units for monitoring and restoring the environment in 1994 on the basis of the Moscow Military District and the Northern Fleet.

The armed forces have always been among the most notable violators of nature's equilibrium. Here is just one example from the life of the rocket forces. Around the testing ranges in Kapustin Yar and Plesetsk about 9 million hectares were contaminated during the fall of rocket stages [otdelyayushchiyesya chasti] to the ground. Up to 20,000 tonnes of metal structures were scattered over the land, contaminated with a whole range of dangerous substances, and 200 tonnes of fuel were poured out. In some places concentration of highly toxic substances reaches 270 mg per kilogram of soil.

Similar data could be cited for other categories of troops. So that the army ecological subunits will from the first be faced with very serious tasks to normalize the environment.

A fundamental element is that they must be created outside the numerical strength of the armed forces, outside the budget expenditure on defense, and belong to a separate natural conservation section of the Russian budget. Otherwise the notorious residual principle could operate in the army itself: Ecologists will be outcasts as far as the general troops leadership is concerned and a "more important" application will always be found for the funds earmarked for ecology.

During the recent parliamentary hearings it was suggested that changes be made to the draft federal "law on alternative service" and that service in the ecological troops be considered one form of alternative service. Major General S. Grigorov, chief of the Defense Ministry directorate for ecology and special protection means, believes that we should be in no hurry to do this. Lest we turn the ecological battalions into something like the construction battalions. And service as an army ecologist requires a very high degree of personal qualifications, knowledge, and health.

And another thing, the major general believes, is that these troops must enlist people with specific moral qualities, who love nature and are ready for hard, thankless work to protect and save it. He was told by specialist ecologists from the British army: We all serve the queen, but it is important to understand that you are not defending Britannia in general but this specific land beneath our feet.

That is why the ecological troops will not be concerned exclusively with internal army problems. It is planned that they will take part on an economically accountable basis in nature conservation work at the most important civilian establishments.

Economic Issues

Soskovets Warns Against Extremes as Coal Prices Released

LD1407154793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1512 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Galkin]

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets radically opposed the intention of some coal-producing regions of the country to raise prices for the fuel 8-10 fold after the prices were released from state control on July 1.

"Free prices can be 10-20 per cent higher than those which were before July 1", he told a press conference on Wednesday.

"These prices cannot be chaotic, they should be understandable for the consumer and the producer", he added.

Soskovets believes the free prices will help the industry improve its economic situation. "The introduction of free coal prices...will result in economic changes not only in the coal industry, but in other industries as well," he said.

In the first half of the year coal production dropped by 16 million tonnes or 9.5 per cent in Russia compared to the same period last year. Budget appropriations in the second quarter of the year amounted only to 42 per cent of the planned figures. Coal producers owe 72 billion roubles for railway transportation and other services, however, consumers' debt to them comprises some 100 billion roubles.

Fedorov Memo to Khasbulatov Raises Problem of Cash Outflow

PM1407133693 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[RIA report: "River of Cash Flowing From Russia to CIS Countries"]

[Text] More than one-third of all Russia's cash is to this day being transferred to the CIS countries for free.

This is stated in a memorandum of analysis sent by Boris Fedorov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, to Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Fedorov notes that "in the sphere of cash supplies, there is still total chaos" because of the absence of any limits or controls. According to his assessment, in 1992 Russia granted to the CIS countries—by means of the transfer of cash, the issuing of credits, and excessively low prices—some $17 billion of U.S. aid, which is 21.4 percent of the country's hard-currency domestic product.

Since there is in effect no ruble zone, and noncash rubles in the CIS countries are not Russian rubles, it would be expedient to grant cash on credit within limits laid down by the Supreme Soviet, or else to sell it at face value for noncash Russian rubles, pending the conclusion of a real economic union," the vice premier believes.

Media Issues

TV, Radio Blackout Envisaged for 27 Jul

LD1407195793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By Ivan Pankov, including recording of interview with Deputy Communications Minister Mikhail Yelizarov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The situation at the Ostankino Television Company is desperate. The television company, a state enterprise, owes the Ministry of Communications a colossal sum of money. The situation is now such that staff at radio and television transmission stations in the northwest part of the country may hold their first strike on 27 July. The result would be a sharp reduction in the number of those receiving the first channel.

[Pankov] When a strike is declared, wages are not paid, and what do you call the actions of the government with regard to the radio communications engineers in Magadan, who have not been paid for five months? The Ministry of Communications shrugs its shoulders. Five state television and seven radio broadcasts are paying the Ministry of Communications a small part of their debt. The sharp increase in the price of electricity, and the refusal by state structures to support television and radio stations have almost led to catastrophe.

[Yelizarov] We now owe the power stations 8 billion [rubles]. We are owed 26 billion. From the overall 40 billion, television and radio stations have received 12 billion [figures as heard] and the situation is so serious that we will soon cease to function altogether. We will have what look like zones of silence. The television picture will be lost everywhere over an area of 18 million square kilometers, that means, across the whole of Russia. Radio broadcasts will not go on air.

[Pankov] Then how will information be sent out?

[Yelizarov] [words indistinct] by word of mouth. We have asked the government the same question 10 times. Ten times we have received confirmation that information air space must remain intact. The Ministry of Finances wrote a letter to Chernomyrdin saying they will provide 60 percent of the financing. The conclusion from this is that we should work for 60 percent of our time. We are preparing a proposal that the broadcast grid of state television and radio stations be sharply reduced.

Further on Blackout

LD1407211493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By Sergey Yegorov, including recording of interview with Kirill Ignatyev, first deputy chairman of Ostankino Television and Radio Company; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Yegorov] The threat of a halt to television and radio broadcasting in Russia or at least the threat of a considerable reduction in its volume is becoming more and more real. In the opinion of Kirill Ignatyev, first deputy chairman of the Ostankino Television and Radio Company, a package of documents to be examined by Russia's Supreme Soviet within the next few days shows the intention of the legislators to subordinate radio and television directly to themselves, first applying an economic stranglehold on them.

[Addressing Ignatyev] Could you say why television is always a profitable undertaking in all other countries, yet in ours it is always requiring additional budgetary infusions and still finds itself making losses?

[Ignatyev] The situation is indeed catastrophic. This is linked to the inaction of the Supreme Soviet, which has been paying very great attention to acquiring political control over the mass media but pays no attention to their financing. Indeed, on the contrary, it has been attempting to block and deprive the television and radio companies from independent sources of financing. A few days ago a resolution was adopted which in particular blocks the transformation of television and radio companies into joint-stock enterprises. Meanwhile, the world's largest television and radio companies exist precisely as joint-stock companies.

The present situation is therefore characterized by the fact that the television and radio companies are not receiving the necessary money from the state, but they have not been given the opportunity to become independent of the state, self-financing and economically free. As a result the viewers could end up without television and radio channels by September.

Government Holds Meeting on Communication Systems

LD1407230493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1240 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jul—The state of the Russian Federation's control and communications systems, and the prospects for their development were the main topic of an Russian government meeting today, chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets. It was attended by representatives of the Economics, Defense, Communications, and Finance Ministries, the State Committee for Emergency Situations, the Interior ministry, the Russian Committee for Information, and a number of oblast administrations.

Opening the meeting, Oleg Soskovets stressed the importance of restoring the information and telecommunications system, both in the Russian and in the Commonwealth countries, that had been disrupted by the collapse of the USSR. In his view, the preservation of the system would significantly promote the preservation of the CIS countries' single economic space.

Aleksandr Starovoytov, director general of government communications and information, who then delivered the main report, presented an analysis of the state of the Russian information and telecommunications complex and emphasized that it was "the nerve control system not only of the economy, but also of the whole body of the state as a whole." He added that "the functioning of the state in all its aspects depends on the effectiveness and reliability of its [the system's] work."

Those attending the meeting adopted a decision on its results, supporting a proposal to assign the "Communications" sector, together with control systems, to a separate independent Russian sector, "Control, Informaticization and Communications." Also supported was a proposal to form a federal interdepartmental Russian government commission on the informaticization of organs of Russian state power and control, with representatives of Russian components being incorporated into it. Those present at the meeting also favored the setting up of a working group drawn from representatives of the apparat of the Council of Ministers, the president's administration, and interested Russian ministries and departments in order to prepare draft normative enactments by the Russian president and government, bearing in mind the discussion that had taken place.

'Mir' TV, Radio To Begin Regular Broadcasts in Aug

LD1507031193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0230 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] The Mir interstate TV and radio company plans to take over some of Ostankino's airtime in the very near future. As a correspondent from MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has been told, the company has been set up by eight CIS countries. Mir will start regular broadcasts in Russian in August. For now it has three hours per week on TV's First Channel and three hours per week on the radio. Its programs will consist of news bulletins and various topical programs produced in those countries, mostly about life in the countries which set it up.

Future of Radio Moscow International in Question

LD1407214293 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2010 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] At a Moscow news conference the Russian deputy minister of communications, Mikhayl Yelizarov, has suggested sharply reducing programs of Radio Moscow International for listeners abroad. He said it was necessary because the government-owned TV and radio companies have problems with paying for the services of his ministry.

In this context the deputy chairman of the Ostankino TV and Radio Company, Kirill Ignatyev, has sharply criticized the Ministry of Communications for pursuing its selfish economic and commercial interests. He was also shocked by the ministry's attempts to interfere in political and artistic spheres. I am absolutely convinced, he said, that Radio Moscow International is doing a very important job. How else can one get the latest first-hand information about the situation in dynamically changing Russia? That's why our company is very alarmed by the fact that almost the entire Russian foreign service is being threatened. The Ministry of Communications is actually trying to impose its terms on broadcasting companies. The absurdity of the situation is that the Ministry of Communications is trying to manage the broadcasting as such.

That is why today the leadership of the broadcasting company Ostankino is forced to consider questions of financing as a priority. We would want, he said, the Russian government bodies and other media, Russian journalists, to speak out for the economic freedom of Ostankino and its division Radio Moscow International.

In Mr. Ignatyev's opinion, otherwise, the situation might lead to the distortion of information about the Russian Federation and political developments in it, including in Radio Moscow programs. We would not want that to happen, he said. We would want Russia to look the way it is—reviving, democratic, pluralistic—a country where many viewpoints collide and clash and still a country which is a strong power, retaining its system of broadcasting for listeners abroad, the deputy chairman of the Ostankino Broadcasting Company Kirill Ignatyev said.

Space Issues

Cosmos-2259 Satellite Launched From Plesetsk 14 Jul

LD1507085993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0732 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—The Flight Control Center reported today that an artificial earth satellite Cosmos-2259, intended for continuing the study of space, was launched by a "Soyuz" carrier rocket from Plesetsk cosmodrome on 14 July.

The satellite has ben placed in an orbit with the following parameters: initial period of revolution—89.7 mins; apogee—373 km; perigee—176 km; and orbital inclination—67.2 deg.

The apparatus is working normally.

Further on Launch

LD1507103693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0932 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Semen Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jul—Yesterday evening at 2040 Moscow time, the Military Space Forces of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry launched space apparatus Cosmos-2259 by means of a Soyuz carrier rocket from the Plesetsk cosmodrome.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the Military Space Forces press center that the satellite has been put into an orbit close to the calculated one. The launch was carried out in the interests of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry.

Control of the satellite is being carried out by the Main Center for Control and Testing of Space Apparatuses, located in Golitsino-2 near Moscow, which is part of the Military Space Forces structure.

Launch of Meteorological Satellite Postponed Until 26 Jul

LD1407164293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1608 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Semen Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—The launch of a meteorological satellite "Meteor-2" with German and Italian equipment onboard was postponed for five days and is to take place on July 26.

The satellite was to blast off on July 21 from the Russian Plesetsk cosmodrome. TASS learned from reliable sources on Wednesday that the delay was caused by the failure of the German side to ship the necessary equipment in time. The press centre of the space forces confirmed the postponement, but refused to comment on it.

Yeltsin Edict on Satellite Telecommunications System

PM1407120593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jul 93 First Edition p 5

[Edict no. 1020 "On the Creation of a Satellite Telecommunications System," dated Moscow, The Kremlin, 7 July 1993 and signed by President Yeltsin]

[Text] For the purposes of creating a satellite telecommunications system to meet the needs of the population and of state and commercial structures in the Russian Federation and to broaden their access to worldwide information resources by means of the conversion of Russian space information systems, I decree:

1. The relevant proposals of the "Kometa" Central Science and Production Association as the umbrella organization, to implement the satellite telecommunications system (hereinafter called the STS) project jointly with interested state enterprises of the Russian Federation and with Russian and foreign commercial structures making investments, are to be approved.

2. It is to be deemed necessary to channel work on creating the STS primarily into developing communications systems in the European part of the Russian Federation, in regions of Siberia and the Far East, and in the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg.

3. The Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government is to give the "Kometa" Central Science and Production Association assistance in implementing the STS project, including in siting its ground facilities on the territories of installations being released in connection with arms reduction and conversion.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Defense is to provide technical facilities for the launching and control of

STS satellites on a contract basis without lowering the combat characteristics of defense systems.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

[Dated] 7 July 1993

Supreme Soviet

Parliament Refuses To Discuss Tajik Border Dispute

LD1407121093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today Army General Konstantin Kobets has addressed a request to the Russian Supreme Soviet to permit the Russian Army to conduct military operations in the Tajik-Afghan border zone and to grant the 201st division the right to use all means of fire power, including aviation.

After a short discussion and voting parliament decided not to discuss the border situation. The I's were dotted by Aleksandr Dzasokhov, who demanded that parliament should not be compelled to give approval to military staff operations.

Kobets Proposes Deployment to Tajikistan

LD1507083493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 15 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We begin our bulletin with a report from the morning session of the Russian parliament, at which the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border was discussed.

[Begin recording] [Army General K. Kobets] As of 0900, firing had been going for five hours in the sector of the 11th Border Post, and the situation is snowballing.

[Perfilyev] Army General Konstantin Kobets made this statement in parliament today. He recalled that according to the existing Constitution of the Russian Federation, only the Supreme Soviet can decide to use military force beyond the bounds of the state. At the instruction of the Defense Ministry, Kobets proposed that the parliament authorize the use of aircraft and mobile units in addition to ground troops in order to avoid further losses among Russian soldiers. The Supreme Soviet could adopt a decision on this at this afternoon's session. [end recording]

Further on Kobets Proposal

LD1507091593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 0800 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Report by Aleksandr Ruvinskiy on statement by Army General Konstantin Kobets, Russian deputy defense minister, to the Russian Supreme Soviet session on 15 July in Moscow—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Begin Kobets recording] As of 0900, firing has been going on for five hours in the sector of the 11th Border Post, and the situation is snowballing. The Defense Ministry collegium, having completed its work late last night and having collated all the reports coming in, including from Armed Forces officers who adopted an appeal yesterday that I handed to the Supreme Soviet, deemed it possible and instructed me to communicate the following appeal to you.

In conditions of intensifying combat operations in Tajikistan, the collegium of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry addresses the following proposal to the Supreme Soviet:

First: To permit the Russian Federation Defense Ministry, with the consent of the government of the Republic of Tajikistan, to put additional forces and resources onto its territory.

Second: To give the Russian Federation Defense Ministry the right to decide on the combat deployment of units and subunits of Russian troops in combat action zones.

Third: To maintain constant cooperation with the border troops of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Tajikistan with the aim of observing the regime for the guarding and protection of the state border.

Fourth: To ask the parliaments of the states that are party to the collective security treaty to give military assistance to the Republic of Tajikistan. [end recording]

[Ruvinskiy] I should explain that in accordance with Russian legislation, in a situation like this the decision to use the Armed Forces can only be made by the Supreme Soviet. For the time being, there has been no final vote in the Supreme Soviet. There has been a short debate and Ruslan Khasbulatov has said that a situation like this was to be expected, since events have been developing since January. He considers this a serious shortcoming on the part of the Foreign Ministry and believes the resolution to be adopted should include a clause saying that it is essential to enter into talks with the government of Afghanistan. However, to judge by all accounts, the government of Afghanistan is simply not able to control this situation on the Tajikistan border.

A whole series of proposals has been submitted on this resolution; specifically, it has been suggested that the commander in chief of the Russian Armed Forces be invited to the session, or, should this prove impossible, Vice President Rutskoy. This proposal was put to a vote but failed to win the necessary number of votes.

It has been decided to soften some clauses in the resolution and I think it will be passed by the Supreme Soviet in the next few hours.

Khasbulatov Calls For Talks With Afghanistan

LD1507103193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0850 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 15 Jul—The Russian parliament listened this morning to a report by Russian Deputy Defense Minister Konstantin Kobets who reported on the development of events on the Tajik-Afghan border. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the report, parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov on the whole approved the statement proposed by the Defense Ministry Collegium, but proposed that some of its wording be softened and that necessary amendments be made to it.

He thought that "many detachments of mojahedin no doubt operate on autonomous principles and the government of Afghanistan hardly guides their actions." Therefore, the speaker proposed that the government of the Russian Federation or the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry should be instructed to "enter into a negotiation process with the leadership of Afghanistan" in order to end military actions. He especially pointed out the compulsoriness of this point in the document because without it, in his opinion, "the latter is steeped in militant passion." The head of parliament added that in the situation that has developed, he sees "an evident attempt to shift onto parliament the responsibility for any consequences of the development of events."

Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs, then announced that a parliamentary working group is finishing work on a document stressing the need for the protection of Russians in the conflict area and containing parliament's general authorization to the Russian Federation Government to take "necessary measures" in the Tajik-Afghan border area.

The question of the ratification of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Tajikistan and Russia will also be examined by the Russian Federation today.

'Necessary Measures' Approved

LD1507115193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0945 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jul—The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet instructs the government "to take the necessary measures to protect the life and safety of our fellow countrymen with methods appropriate to the circumstances," reads a statement by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet in connection with the events on the Tajik-Afghan border. It was adopted at the parliamentary session today.

The statement notes that the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet "has reacted with great alarm and profound indignation to the new acts of provocation by extremist forces on the Tajik-Afghan border." The parliament "draws the attention of the leadership of Afghanistan to the impermissibility of aggressive sorties from its territory, which seriously threaten to worsen the military-political situation in the region." The document stresses that the Russian side is counting on "all possible measures being urgently taken to stop military provocations on the southern boundaries of the CIS member states and to prevent them in the future." The Supreme Soviet has called for the resumption of interstate talks with the leadership of Afghanistan in order to halt the above-mentioned actions.

The Russian parliamentarians voiced the hope that the parliaments of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan will take appropriate steps "to ensure the rapid and rigorous implementation of the Minsk accords relating to the carrying out of the peacemaking operation in Tajikistan and to the protection of the Tajik-Afghan border."

Deputies 'Bogged Down' While Soldiers Die

PM1407155193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jul 93 pp 1, 3

[Vladimir Yermolin report under the general headline: "Mojahedin Are Becoming Insolent. Military Are Acting. Do Parliamentarians Have Doubts?"]

[Text] During the discussion of the agenda at Wednesday's [14 July] morning sitting of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet there was a proposal to discuss the tragic events on the Tajik-Afghan border. Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, told the deputies that Defense Ministry representative Army General Konstantin Kobets was in the hall and was prepared to provide appropriate information. You would have thought the need for immediate examination of the question was such that parliamentarians would unanimously vote in favor of including it on the agenda. However, the first vote was negative. Only half an hour later, at Nikolay Ryabov's proposal, did parliament again set about deciding whether or not to pay attention to events on the border.

Deputy Vitaliy Sevastyanov contended that merely to examine the question was a provocation since, he said, the government and the military think of nothing but leaving the southern border exposed and withdrawing

Russian troops from Tajikistan. Judging by appearances, logic of this standard gripped the minds of other deputies, too.

Eventually the floor was given to Army General Konstantin Kobets. He asked the Supreme Soviet to grant the right to use shock forces of the 201st Division and aircraft in the event of aggression by Afghanistan, and also to transfer mobile forces to the conflict region.

Army General Kobets drew deputies' attention to the fact that every hour is precious because, according to operational information, around 3,000 fighters have already been concentrated on the Afghan side and combat equipment is being amassed.

However, Deputy Aleksandr Dzasokhov asked the Defense Ministry representative to "spare this audience military staff decisions." He believes that there should be no hurry here; we should first collect all the necessary material and learn the opinion of the leaders of Tajikistan and Russia, and only then begin elaborating a political decision. Deputy Georgiy Kuts expressed the confidence that in this situation the most useful thing would be to organize a trip by a group of deputies to the Tajik-Russian border. Deputy Sergey Baburin also proposed refraining from discussing "military aspects."

Presumably parliament will today adopt some sort of decision in connection with the tragedy on the Tajik-Afghan border, but by then this issue of the paper will be at the printer's. I will venture to add just a few words in the aftermath of this morning's discussion.

When parliamentarians gathered in the hall for the sitting most of them already knew of the insolent attack by the mojahedin on a Russian border post and that border guards—Russian Federation citizens—had been killed and wounded. Nevertheless, they deemed it possible to begin their work day with the customary limp discussion of the agenda and, when they were reminded of the tragedy, showed no particular emotion and even tried to shelve the question. Not all of them, of course, but quite enough to influence the results of the voting. And in fact the leitmotiv of the speakers was the same: There is no reason to drag us into this affair, let the military sort things out.

In the last year or two the Supreme Soviet has "led the whole world" in terms of the number of statements, protests, and other actions expressing disapproval. And what has been the result? Did this mountain of paper protect the guys who had to go into battle on the morning of 13 July? Did it make the attackers and those who organized the attack feel even the slightest doubts about spoiling relations with a power like Russia? It looks as though all our numerous warnings have long been regarded as nothing but a sign of weakness on the other side of the border. Yet we are continuing to get bogged down in blather, afraid of appearing less peace-loving than we would like—God knows in whose eyes. And even when our people are being killed, we are most concerned with not exceeding the necessary measures of self-defense.

The United States deemed it possible to punish Iraq with a missile strike for a mere criminal intent. Russia lost over 20 of its citizens on July 13. Surely it is time we showed the whole world how highly we value the life of a Russian soldier?

Supreme Soviet Appeal to Black Sea Fleet Personnel

PM1507110393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jul 93 First Edition p 3

[Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Appeal No. 5355-1 "To the Admirals, Officers, Petty Officers, Seamen, Workers, and Employees of the Red Banner Black Sea Fleet"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet shares and supports the principled position of those sociopolitical forces of Russia, Ukraine, and other CIS countries and the majority of their citizens and servicemen who advocate that the glorious Black Sea Fleet—the child and pride of many generations of our people—be preserved as a single entity.

The fate of the Black Sea Fleet should be resolved by the peoples themselves, not by individual figures.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet assures you, the valiant Black Sea seamen, that it will not allow the collapse of the fleet, will help to ensure that it is provided with everything necessary for the effective fulfillment of the tasks of defending our states' southern borders, and will display concern for the servicemen and their families.

Questions of the fleet's present and future should be resolved in a calm, balanced, responsible manner with a consideration for its history and prospects. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet states its firm intention to embark on an examination of these questions with the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and other state organs and public organizations.

Dear seamen! Dear citizens!

In a complex and in many respects dangerous situation the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet makes a request and an appeal to you—retain your restraint and defend unswervingly the true national interests of our peoples!

[Signed] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, Moscow, House of Russian Soviets, 9 July 1993

Khasbulatov Said To Fear Physical Threat From Dudayev

MK1407090093 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 14, 7 Jul 93 (Signed to Press 6 Jul) p 2

[SIXTH-FLOOR NEWS AGENCY report: "Khasbulatov Fears Attempt on His Life From Dzhokhar Dudayev"]

[Text] According to people in Ruslan Khasbulatov's immediate entourage, the parliament speaker has lately been fearing an attempt on his life and on the lives of his family members. Khasbulatov is convinced that the main threat to his safety is coming from Chechnya, from Dzhokhar Dudayev.

The Chechen president, indeed, regards Khasbulatov as his personal enemy. Dudayev also believes that actions of the Chechen opposition are guided by Khasbulatov. It is not known for sure, however, that the president of Chechnya intends to arrange the physical elimination of his Moscow enemy.

At the same time, Khasbulatov is taking some measures to ensure his personal safety. These moves are primarily aimed at a tighter security system and control over the quality of food.

The speaker is currently exploring possibilities of changing his place of residence. This is because Khasbulatov occupies an apartment that in the past was meant for Brezhnev, and which, Khasbulatov thinks, no longer conforms to security requirements and has turned into a "public highway." Indeed, a number of residents of this building, members of the former top nomenklatura, lease their prestigious apartments to businessmen; this has led to the presence of "casuals" around the building. Yevgeniy Primakov, head of the Foreign Intelligence Service, moved from this house not long ago.

Parliament Factions Criticize Constitutional Assembly

LD1407164493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1507 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filipov]

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—A number of factions of the Russian Parliament circulated a statement in the parliament today, assessing the development of the political situation in Russia.

The statement, signed by coordinators of the factions "The Agrarian Union, "The Industrial Union, "The Workers' Union", "Free Russia, "Russia's Communists, "The Left-Wing Centre" and others says that the Constitutional Assembly, held with the active support of the Russian Government, merely pushed society away from "reaching a new constitution of the Russian Federation."

The designers of the document believe that both the "presidential" and any other drafts of the new constitution should and must be discussed at the Congress of People's Deputies. They pointed out that "the hasty constitutional process has artificially worsened the relations between republican regions and districts and triggered a new dangerous wave of regional separatism."

The violation of Russia's state integrity can be brought about by recent appeals to hold early elections to the Russian highest representative body, which run contrary to the results of the 25 April referendum and which "were caused by the refusal of the subjects of the federation to elect its representatives to the new federal parliament."

Parliament Delays Discussion of Draft Constitution

LD1407181293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1659 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—The discussion of a draft constitution, worked out by the Constitutional Commission of the Congress of People's Deputies, has been removed from the parliament's agenda for July 15 on the initiative of the Constitutional Commission.

Oleg Rumyantsev, senior secretary of the Constitutional Commission, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS that "recent developments have prompted to change plans made by the Constitutional Commission to submit an official finalized draft constitution to the Russian Parliament on Thursday, taking into account provisions of the draft constitution approved by the Constitutional Assembly in the Kremlin."

Rumyantsev said that the decision was prompted by the fact that on Wednesday or Thursday the Constitutional Commission is to officially receive a draft constitution of the Constitutional Assembly, which must be considered by the parliament.

According to Oleg Rumyantsev, the draft constitution worked out by the Constitutional Assembly has borrowed much from the draft suggested by the Constitutional Commission.

"As a major political initiative, put forward by the Russian president, the draft constitution demands that the subjects of the federation and society make their response to it, "while putting forward an official draft constitution now "might be regarded by the subjects of the federation as another deliberate action taken by the Russian Parliament to prevent the president from realising his initiative," Rumyantsev said.

Rumyantsev did not rule out a possibility that the draft constitution adopted by the Constitutional Assembly would not get the support of the required majority of the

Council of the Federation. "Then, the question of an official draft of the Constitutional Commission will be raised again to be submitted for discussion at the November Congress of People's Deputies," Rumyantsev said.

He pointed out that the work at an official draft constitution continues, and that the results "would much depend on how the draft constitution of the Constitutional Assembly is accepted in Russia's regions."

Democrats Think Parliament's Decisions 'Illegitimate'

LD1407164193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1538 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—Decisions passed by the Russian Supreme Soviet cannot be regarded as legitimate since parliamentary sessions always lack quorum for their adoption, believes Lev Ponomaryov, a leader of the "Democratic Russia" parliamentary group. At a meeting of the Coalition of Reforms on Wednesday [14 July], he proposed "to launch a campaign for declaring the decisions by the Supreme Soviet illegitimate until the Constitutional Court gives its ruling on the matter". The members of the Coalition of Reforms approved this proposal, but admitted that it would be rather difficult to carry out the campaign since many lawmakers, including democratic ones, often cast their votes instead of deputies absent from the session.

Participants in the meeting reaffirmed their readiness to convene an extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies for adopting the new constitution approved by the Constitutional Convention.

Parliament Statement Criticizing Government Published

PM1407154193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

["Statement by Russian Federation Supreme Soviet" No. 5356-1, dated 9 July 1993]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet expresses regret at the Council of Ministers Presidium's cancelation of a prearranged report by the Russian Federation government chairman on the course of the economic reforms and plans for the government's activities.

The failure to present the program for the government's activities prevented the convening of the next Congress of People's Deputies, scheduled for June 1993, and disrupted the schedule for discussing and adopting the budget. One month on, the government is still not prepared to report on the socioeconomic situation in the republic and the plans for resolving the crisis. Anger has been caused by the fact that some government members are using their own failures and omissions as grounds for political attacks on and accusations against the Congress of People's Deputies, the Supreme Soviet, and representative organs of power of the components of the Federation. Government deputy chairman S.M. Shakhray's actions in destroying the quorum at the Congress of People's Deputies and his unacceptable political statements increase the social tension in society and go beyond the bounds not only of political ethics, but of the law as well. They demonstrate a desire on the part of political forces in and around the government to destroy the atmosphere of accord that was evident in the work of the roundtable jointly created by the government, Supreme Soviet, and political movements and parties. The very grim situation in the economy and social sphere and the deepening crisis in all spheres of society's life mean there is no alternative to cooperation and joint, concerted actions.

The Supreme Soviet is prepared to consider and work on agreeing a new date for the government chairman's report on the socioeconomic situation in the republic and plans for the government's activities.

Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

Russian House of Soviets, Moscow, 9 July 1993

Parliamentary Opposition on Ukraine, Constitution

LD1407190493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By correspondent Yevgeniy Fateyev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] It is better to have a storm in a teacup now than a storm in the Black Sea later, the coordinators of opposition and centrist factions of the Russian parliament told our program. They called a news conference in the White House today to discuss Ukraine's negative reaction to the Russian Supreme Soviet's recent decision on the status of Sevastopol and the financing of the Black Sea Fleet.

Sergey Baburin noted that the parliamentary opposition is not surprised that these decisions have been condemned by the United States, Ukrainian nationalists, and President Yeltsin.

On behalf of nine factions, the coordinators demanded that the Russian Foreign Ministry repudiate its statement of 11 July on the problems of Sevastopol and the Black Sea fleet, which are, it was mentioned, at variance with the Supreme Soviet's decisions and, therefore, with the opinion of the overwhelming majority of Russian citizens.

In a special statement, the coordinators of factions condemned as unacceptable the policy of unilateral compromises implemented by Russia's executive authorities, which neglects the will of legislative authority.

The coordinators of right-wing, left-wing, and centrist factions, who until recently used to argue with one another, joined ranks on another issue today, too. They issued yet another joint statement on the constitutional conference in the Kremlin. It appears that today, the statement says, we are further from getting a new Russian constitution than on the day the conference opened. [video shows news conference in progress]

Chamber Moves To Facilitate Federation Treaty

PM1407153793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Report on Russian Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities sitting by Aleksandr Linkov: "The Federation Treaty Must Work"]

[Excerpt] The Federation Treaty has been in operation for over a year. It has become an integral part of the existing Constitution. But it is not being put into practice as such at the moment. Recent events, connected with the krays' and oblasts' wish to raise their status to that of republics, also confirm this. One reason for this process is the absence of a mechanism for implementing the Federation Treaty.

What kind of mechanism is it to be? The makers of a draft law on this problem have tried to accomplish this. The legal document was presented at yesterday's sitting of the nationalities chamber. Talking about the need to adopt the draft, chamber chairman R. Abdulatipov noted that taking it as a basis will facilitate an effort to actually start the process of implementing the Federation Treaty provisions.

The chamber chairman's persuasive argument prompted no objections on the part of its members. The draft was presented. It has been passed to the committees. [passage omitted]

Parliament Defies Government, Raises Minimum Wage, Pension

MK1507095093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jul 93 p 1

[Rodion Ivanov report: "Wages and Pensions Raised. The Government Protests, in Vain"]

[Text] Yesterday the Supreme Soviet, in spite of objections from the government, presented by Labor Minister Georgiy Melikyan, adopted a law on raising minimum wages as of 1 July. The lowest monthly wage will increase to 7,740 rubles [R]. Grants, allowances, and other social benefits will be raised accordingly.

The government in its letter stated that "consumer price increases are occurring virtually in proportion to work remuneration growth," while the minimum wage increase planned by the Supreme Soviet would require more than R3 trillion for the second half of the year, which is not provided for by the budget. In this connection the government asked the parliament to refrain from adopting this inflationary law or at least to postpone the date for the commencement of payment of increased wages at least until 1 August. Mikhail Zakharov, chairman of the social policy commission, who reported on the draft law, rejected all of the government's objections, citing the wage indexation law passed by parliament. Concerning the R3 trillion not envisioned in the budget, Zakharov stated that these funds must be provided for, while a government that draws up budgets that are not in harmony with the laws is therefore incompetent.

Yesterday the Supreme Soviet, on a proposal from the social policy commission, also increased minimum pensions. They have increased by 1.8 times and as of 1 August will amount to R14,620 a month. The government, whose position on the issue was presented by Yuriy Yarov, naturally had its own option. Since the difference between the minimum and the maximum pension, as well as the difference between pensions in general, is fairly big—and after a new indexation is bound to increase even more—the government proposed that each pensioner should receive R6,500 in compensation. Mikhail Zakharov, supporting the idea of compensation, at the same time disagreed with its amount, which does not make it possible to increase pensions to the level established by the law on indexation. Therefore Zakharov insisted that the Supreme Soviet approve the social policy commission's proposals.

Regional Affairs

Sverdlov Oblast Official Attacks Draft Constitution

PM1407115793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jul 93 First Edition p 8

[Article by Anatoliy Matrosov, chairman of Sverdlovsk Oblast Deputies' Control Committee: "Urals Has Nowhere To Go After Seceding From Russia"]

[Text] "The Urals is the cornerstone of the realm," is a fine image which everyone is sick and tired of. Granted, the Urals always supported the realm, the union of indissoluble republics, which paid off the "cornerstone" with an extra bowl of soup in the form of a 15-percent "Urals" (addition to wages). For many years the Urals was a hostage to the doctrine of "if war breaks out tomorrow, if a campaign begins tomorrow..." We therefore regard 26 June 1993 as a black day for us, since this was the day when the new Russian Federation Constitution was prepared, which once again enshrines for many years the oblasts' and krays' vassalage not only to the center but also, in essence, to the national republics. Many of them viewed the Union's disintegration as a time to blatantly blackmail the state organs of authority which have just started to be formed, which, realizing their own weakness, were forced to play giveaway with the new sovereign states on Russia's territory.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's lack of experience of civilized state parliamentarianism, the unwillingness to acknowledge the regions' already acquired experience of self-government, and the flawed principle of federalism, which divides the Federation's components into "white" and "black," have not made it possible to work out and practically implement a principle of delimiting the jurisdiction of federal and regional organs of authority and administration.

This was an alarm bell for us. There were attempts to set up associations for economic collaboration between oblasts and regions, the "Siberian agreement," etc. We wanted to stop the separatist processes in Russia in that form.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and the president, by analyzing and forecasting the development of events in the regions, should have realized even then that it was these that could become the basis of Russian statehood and that centrifugal tendencies could be overcome by relying on the territories which are striving for natural territorial integration. But the draft of the new constitution dashed the last hopes.

Sverdlovsk Oblast Soviet's decision to create the Urals Republic should be regarded as a serious warning of the impermissibility of forming Russia along ethnic lines, of the impermissibility of adopting a constitution that does not allow for equality among all the Federation's components, and of the impermissibility of adopting any legal acts of federal authority and administration affecting the interests of the Federation's subjects without their agreement.

The Urals is resisting—that means it has the power to remain the Russian realm's cornerstone.

Regional Heads on Ural Republic Proclamation

PM1407130793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Viktor Petrovskiy report under the "Regional Politics" rubric: "We Will Use Different Route"]

[Text] At the end of last week sensational news came from Yekaterinburg: The oblast session of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Soviet proclaimed the formation of the Ural Republic. What do leaders of the Ural region's other oblasts think about this? Will they accept Yekaterinburg's proposal to become part of the new republic?

Perm Oblast Administration Head Boris Kuznetsov:

"I am, I dare say, expressing a view held in common with the oblast soviet when I say that we should not be hasty and we should look before we leap. All members should have equal status—of this we have no doubt. But there are various ways of achieving equality. In any case it is necessary to start with equality in the social and economic sphere. But ideally our aim is both political equality and exactly the same status as the republics have—our own statehood.

"Why are we in favor of this? Because we do not want discrimination against the oblasts and the republics' unjustified advantages and privileges to persist any longer. We provide the lion's share of the state budget, but we do not even possess half the powers of taxation and budget-holding that the republics have purely by dint of their having their own statehood. If only they were still able to feed themselves; but, you see, 16 out of 20 republics live completely off state subsidies, that is, at our expense. We are paying for them. You should note here that they are not very favorably disposed toward the idea of giving us equal status.

"In general we resolutely support the idea of giving us equal status, as we also support the 40 kray and oblast plenipotentiaries' June statement on the principle of a federal system. True, when at the session on 22 June one of the deputies introduced a proposal to examine the question of a new status for Perm Oblast, the attitude toward this was reserved. But it is likely that we will nevertheless put this question at the next session. The referendum which we conducted here showed that many people are sympathetically inclined toward the idea of changing Perm Oblast's status."

Tyumen Oblast Soviet Chairman Vladimir Ulyanov:

"What is my attitude toward this? Well, I am racking my brains over this. You are right that I was among those who signed the 40's statement. But you see it was then a question of making our status equal in the sense of giving us the same rights and powers as the republics. But here I see a striving for this status as an end in itself. To what degree does this ensure Russia's integrity. We must think about this. What is most important in the incipient process to make our statuses equal does not lie in form but content. They can call it what they like, it's all the same to me; the important thing is that we have the same right as the republics to make use of our own resources and potential. Why does the Komi Republic have an oil quota, when we, the richest of oil and gas areas, are deprived of this right? This is mind-boggling.

"I will now reply to the question about the likelihood of our becoming part of the Ural Republic. In general we gravitate more toward Siberia and do not consider ourselves part of the Urals region. Therefore, there can be no question of a union. But, we will in principle support this step by Yekaterinburg, though with those serious reservations I have already mentioned. But we will probably take a different route toward gaining equal status. We are actually planning to hold a session on this question in mid-July."

Chelyabinsk Oblast Soviet Chairman Anatoliy Nacharov:

"I am prepared to go to Yekaterinburg for negotiations as early as tomorrow. But for the moment I am not empowered to do so. The session has to decide this. But in principle I consider that this idea has a right to exist, though, maybe, in not such a strong form. The important thing for us is to get rid of discrimination. All of us—the krays and oblasts, and the republics—should definitely be equal as members linked together economically in the region. We stated clearly at the Constitutional Conference in Moscow that the republics should drop the idea of sovereignty together with the right to secede from Russia, which gives them advantages and privileges. Let them have their language, culture, right to citizenship, even a national flag and other trappings. But in all other matters we should be equal—equal members within Russia with the same social and economic rights."

Bashkortostan Inhabitants Favor Remaining Part of Russia

PM1407150593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Kudryashov: "Bashkortostan: We Want To Live in Russia"]

[Text] Sociological studies show that 56 percent of the population of Bashkortostan advocates a form of national-state structure for the republic which presupposes a sufficiently autonomous republic within the framework of the Russian Federation with varying degrees of economic, political, and cultural autonomy.

Only 10 percent of the population is in favor of leaving Russia and forming an autonomous or Muslim state. Moreover, 16 percent favor the republic's transformation into an ordinary Russian oblast.

The accusations of imperial ways leveled against Russia are not finding a response among people. The overwhelming majority (over 85 percent) irrespective of national allegiance are proud of their motherland, Russia, although they believe much will have to be resurrected.

Chuvashian Speaker Favors New Constitution

LD1407161593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1350 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentina Ivanova]

[Text] Chekboksary July 14 TASS—Adopting the new Russian Constitution would pave the way for stabilization, according to Speaker of the Chuvashian Supreme Soviet Eduard Kubarev who gave an interview to SOVETSKAYA CHUVASHIA newspaper on Wednesday.

He said now the door was opened for establishing normal relations among various branches of state power and different political forces.

Favouring preservation of rights for Chuvashia and other ethnically-based republics, he spoke against certain Russian regions attempting to upgrade themselves to the same status.

In Chuvashia the new draft constitution is to be discussed by the local soviets, citizens' meetings and then by the extraordinary session of the republican Supreme Soviet.

Siberians Ready for 'Extreme Measures' To Gain Equal Rights

PM1507121993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Valeriy Yaroslavtsev report under the "Regional Policy" rubric: "Measures Have Been Prepared, But Are Being Kept Secret. For the Time Being"]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk—The unexpected trenchancy of the "Siberian Accord" statement (see ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 13 July 1993) addressed to the federal authorities (and the initial version was even more trenchant) attests that Siberians have apparently resolved upon extreme measures in the event of the nonfulfillment of the demands by krays and oblasts to be given equal rights with republics.

What they have "up their sleeve" is being kept secret for the time being. The session in Sayanogorsk was closed, and nothing was communicated to the press. At the end of last week Vyacheslav Novikov, chairman of Krasnoyarsk Kray Oblast Soviet and coordinator of the Association of Kray and Oblast Soviet Chairmen, chaired a meeting—also behind closed doors—in Nizhniy Novgorod at which this question was discussed.

I have learned from Andrey Shishov, my colleague in Nizhniy Novgorod, that this meeting took place within a "narrow circle" (Krasnoyarsk Kray, Nizhniy Novgorod and Sverdlovsk Oblasts, and Tatarstan). According to some reports they deliberated how to save Russia from collapse and what to do if the rights of federation components remain unequal. And all the signs suggest that kray and oblast leaders are prepared to do everything possible and impossible to preserve a unified and indivisible Russia, but reserved their right to take "retaliatory measures."

The situation is tense. The parade of sovereignties has even reached Siberia. Chita Oblast Soviet has decided to schedule a referendum on the creation of its own republic. Leaders of Irkutsk Oblast have suggested that the Krasnoyarsk Kray authorities should think about uniting their territories with the prospect of creating an East Siberian (or Angaro-Yenisey) Republic within the Russian Federation.

All this suggests that Siberians, like other territories, do not want to be hostages of confrontations in the higher echelons of power. Moscow continues to divide federation components into first- and second-class (divide and rule!) and flirts with the republics according to the current political situation.

The decentralization of power and the decolonialization of Siberia are long overdue, but Moscow, it would appear, still cannot comprehend this, and continues to dig its heels in. And after all, the First Congress of Siberian People's Deputies, held over a year ago in Krasnoyarsk and hastily declared separatist, sent a shiver down Moscow's spine.

Presumably, the "secret evening" in Nizhniy Novgorod and the closed session in Sayanogorsk elaborated fairly tough measures to be set in motion in the event that krays and oblasts do not receive equal rights with republics. Moscow will in all probability be forced to concede. The worst scenario of future developments is that the republics will in their turn demand new powers for themselves, to which the territories will again not agree. And this is perilous...

Chelyabinsk Wants Equality With Republics

PM1507120193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Anatoliy Usoltsev report under the "Regional Policy" rubric: "Yet Another Republic—the South Urals?"]

[Text] Chelyabinsk Oblast—And so, following Vologda, Sverdlovsk, and several other oblasts, the people of Chelyabinsk have also declared themselves a republic. As we have already reported, last Thursday [8 July] Chelyabinsk Oblast Inner Soviet adopted a decision to support the initiative of people's deputies on transforming the oblast into the South Urals (Chelyabinsk) Republic within the Russian Federation and to build relations with the Federation on the basis of a special treaty. In this connection rayon, city, village, and settlement soviets have been instructed to conduct a poll of the population and submit proposals to the oblast soviet by 15 September of this year. The final decision on the oblast's state-legal status remains with its population.

We asked Aleksandr Salomatkin, deputy chairman of the oblast soviet, to comment on the inner soviet's decision.

"In adopting the decision to transform the oblast into a republic the members of the inner soviet were acting on the basis of the pressing need to enhance its state-legal status," Aleksandr Sergeyevich said. "The status of the autonomous components of the Federation should have been equalized long ago. We have had enough of dividing them into grades. At the moment a somewhat strange situation has arisen in Russia: Republics pay to the center far less money than krays or oblasts. The question is, on what basis? Moreover, the federal authorities behave differently with republic organs. But they may dispense altogether with the opinion of an oblast leader and the opinion of oblast populations. Isn't this what is happening right now in Chelyabinsk Oblast? One and a half million voters voted for a new head of administration, but the Russian president ignored this fact. Can we continue to reconcile ourselves to such a situation?

"Industrially developed Chelyabinsk Oblast is among the five leading territorial formations in Russia in terms of the volume of industrial production, ceding only to Moscow and St. Petersburg and Moscow and Sverdlovsk Oblasts. The Federation Treaty in practice has proved to be an empty declaration, and the Moscow bureaucracy continues to determine for itself what to allow and what not to allow to the people of Chelyabinsk. The hopes of the regions in the Constitutional Conference have not yet been realized either: The draft new Constitution in effect preserves the inequality between federation components. All this motivates the population and leadership of oblasts and krays toward an independent search for a solution to their problems."

Aleksandr Salomatkin stressed that the decision adopted by Chelyabinsk Oblast Inner Soviet is not so much a historic as a political step. Deputies are guided by the desire to move from talk to action.

Chelyabinsk Soviet Calls For Conference on Nuclear Center

LD1407124193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Jul 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Chelyabinsk Oblast Soviet stands up for closed towns. The newspaper CHELYABINSKIY RABOCHIY reported this today. This first of all refers to Chelyabinsk-70, in which the Russian federal nuclear center is located. The Chelyabinsk Oblast Soviet passed a decision to hold a conference in August to discuss the catastrophic situation in the town and to invite Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin and his deputies to it. The issue is either the government sign an agreement to solve the problems of Chelyabinsk-70, or, if Russia does not need a federal nuclear center, the soviet will take measures for it to work only for the oblast's economy.

Sochi Conference Examines Conflicts in Caucasus

LD1307212693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Jul 93

[By correspondent G. Solomatin, including recorded excerpt of remark by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at conference on north Caucasus in Sochi on 13 July; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Solomatin] A conference was held in the resort of Sochi today for leaders of administrative bodies and heads of executive power of the northern Caucasus and southern Russia, to discuss security and regional conflicts. The seriousness of the situation in the Caucasus and the south of Russia gives this conference special importance. The list of participants confirms Russia's concern about this region, which Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev described as a region of special interest for Russia.

[Kozyrev] It looks as if experience is being gained from the actions of irregular combat formations—contraband in arms and drugs, political extremism—which is returning like a boomerang into Russia, and is beginning to spread throughout the whole region.

[Solomatin] Also taking part in the conference were Sergey Shakhray [deputy prime minister], Ramazan Abdulatipov [Soviet of Nationalities chairman], Viktor Barannikov, the security minister, and Boris Pastukhov, the Russian president's special representative for settlement of the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict.

The conference noted that the decision on a cease-fire in Abkhazia reached in Maykop is invalid, in view of Georgia's refusal to sign it. The hostilities continue. The Georgian-Abkhaz talks in Moscow have been interrupted for an indefinite period. The conference participants believe that all this threatens to transform the Georgian-Abkhaz war into a Georgian-Caucasian war. Among the urgent problems the Chechen issue is especially singled out. If this is not solved, the conference participants believe, there will be no peace in the northern Caucasus. The conference agreed almost unanimously that cooperation between Russian federal organs and the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples is impossible.

In view of all this, the following was stated for the first time at a conference of this kind. The Russian leadership is ready to adopt decisions on the Caucasus and on the northern Caucasian region and southern Russia. But before doing so, it has decided to confer once again with leaders of krays, oblasts, and republics of the northern Caucasus. One more thing: The conference came to a unanimous decision that now certain circles in the Caucasus are playing not the Georgian, Abkhaz, Ingush, or Ossetian card, but the Russian card, and it is time to put an end to that.

Sobchak's Profile in U.S. Paper Part of Election Bid

PM1407160593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Sergey Modestov commentary: "Gorby II, or the Stavropol Syndrome"]

[Excerpts] The May issue of CHIEF EXECUTIVE, a weighty magazine for the U.S. political elite, published an article on Mayor Sobchak of St. Petersburg under the intriguing headline "Who After Yeltsin?" [passage omitted]

So Sobchak has begun actively campaigning overseas in an attempt to win the support of important political and business circles. But, although his motives in organizing advertisements in the U.S. press are relatively transparent, the goal of the Americans themselves is still to be explained.

First and foremost it can be said that, in familiarizing the public with this possible contender for the presidency, the magazine was hardly intending to cause a sensation in Russia, since the mayor's plans are already quite transparent. Those who attended the recent city days were able to see for themselves the seriousness of his intentions.

It is hard to imagine that Anatoliy Aleksandrovich wanted to "placard" his considerable and highly respectable acquaintances among U.S. politicians and businessmen—such as Consul General Jack Gosnell, who has close personal ties to the mayor (we would, for instance, cite the fact that his daughter is at the same school as Sobchak's daughter).

Through Gosnell, the mayor has access to the most interested U.S. banks, companies, and research centers—Citibank, General Motors, Proctor and Gamble, Sara Lee, Gillette, Science Applications, and Duke University's Faqua Business School. It was thanks to him that the CHIEF EXECUTIVE interview with Sobchak took place.

The magazine article could mean that Sobchak is not simply attempting to mobilize public opinion in the top echelons of U.S. society in his favor. Clearly, active groups of U.S. politicians and businessmen who want to assert themselves in Russia are backing Sobchak as, in their opinion, the most promising figure in the forthcoming campaign for the presidency.

Another conclusion which can be drawn from the article is that the contender himself is trying to assess his own chances of winning the top state post. This could demonstrate the exceptional seriousness of his intentions, for the sake of which (or even for the sake of testing the water) he is running the major risk of showing his hand too soon. He is attempting to make up for the lack of support within the country by launching his information and propaganda campaign abroad. The action he is taking makes it possible to form the opinion that Sobchak is compiling in his own mind an image of himself as a world-class politician.

A number of questions arise: To what extent does this idea square with reality, and to what extent does Mr. Sobchak himself match up to the image? And also (to ask an almost Gogolian question)—do not these deals run counter to existing civil decrees and to the future prospects of Russia?

Shatalin, Ulybin Relieved of Duties in North Ossetia

LD1507011193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0030 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has relieved Yuriy Shatalin of his duties as head of the provisional administration in part of Prigorodnyy Rayon, adjacent areas in the North Ossetian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], and part of Nazranovskiy Rayon in the Ingush republic. Vyacheslav Ulybin has been relieved of his duties of deputy head of the provisional administration. The presidential decree states that they have been relieved of their duties because the term of their plenipotentiary powers has come to an end.

Shokhin Visits Krasnoyarsk Kray

LD1407183993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By Yuriy Sysoyev from Krasnoyarsk, including recording of remarks by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Sysoyev] Even by the most modest international standards, the currency wealth of Krasnoyarsk kray amounts to trillions, but up to now little of it has remained for the Siberians themselves. Therefore one of the tasks of the government and experts' commission is to coordinate federal and local interests. This will largely remove the tension in relations with the center.

[Shokhin] The current situation is such that the regions largely predetermine the solutions of many general state tasks. This also applies very actively to Krasnoyarsk kray, not only in the economic but also in the political sphere. I have in mind in particular the role of Krasnoyarsk in the Siberian agreement.

[Sysoyev] But, as Aleksandr Shokhin stressed, the Siberians themselves are not able to develop the natural resources of such a huge region as the lower Angara area on their own. Here new forms of credit and finance relations are needed, together with the use of foreign capital. All this week the government commission will have to work intensively on many facilities of the hydropower engineering, timber, and mining industries in order to work out a federal program for the development of the Angara area and Krasnoyarsk kray.

Grachev Visits Paratroop Units

PM1407122793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts: "Working Visit By Defense Minister"]

[Text] On 10 July Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, paid a working visit to an airborne troops' subunit stationed in Naro-Fominsk and Kubinka. During the trip he visited the paratroop regiment commanded by Colonel Aleksandr Dekhtev. Last December the regiment was transferred from Lithuania to a new station. Naturally, there were many problems with amenities. So the situation there is in many respects typical of dozens of other units.

But airborne troops are not the kind to be daunted by adversity. Of course, these problems will not be resolved at a stroke. And although the regiment was not transferred to an empty space, as it were, the airborne troops still have a great deal to do.

This and the plans for the future were discussed with the regiment's command and during a meeting with officers and members of servicemen's families in the unit's club. The defense minister expressed satisfaction with the progress in providing amenities and with the quality of the airborne troops' combat training. At the same time, he set tasks regarding its further improvement.

In the afternoon he visited the battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Nikolay Vasilchenko. Airborne troops under the command of Captain Konstantin Mirzayants demonstrated their combat expertise to the defense minister.

After the demonstration of combat drills, the defense minister thanked the company's troops and presented company commander Captain Mirzayants, who was celebrating his 26th birthday that day, with 20,000 rubles, warmly congratulating the officer on his birthday.

Transcaucasus 'Recruiters' Seek Tula Pilots, Paratroops

PM1407124993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report from the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA-ITAR-TASS column under the "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric: "Recruiters Need Officers"]

[Text] Recruiters from the Transcaucasus are showing increased interest in Tula officers who are helicopter pilots or paratroops. According to information from unofficial sources several servicemen have lately been offered a transfer to southern republics' fighting armies with payment for their "martial labor" in dollars. Officers recently discharged into the reserves with neither housing nor a job in "civvy street" are attracting special attention from the recruiters.

Plan for Uniting St. Petersburg, Leningrad Oblast Outlined

PM1407133793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Vladimir Nevelskiy: "St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast Could Become Single Component of Federation"]

[Text] At the initiative of S. Tsyplyayev, the president's representative in St. Petersburg, a draft treaty has been prepared in accordance with which St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast are to become a single component of the Federation. At present they are split and figure separately in the Federation Treaty. The adoption of the new Constitution, whose text could include the necessary amendment, provides a historical chance of finally resolving this puzzle.

So far the situation looks absurd: A single economic complex—the city and oblast—is under the command of two centers, which frequently fail to find a common language. With the creation of the Russian Federation state-territorial formations, each of its components will receive the opportunity for its own legislation and then the present watershed will become like a state border. Already a precedent of this kind has arisen: "Interstate" talks have been under way for 18 months between the two administrations on the construction of a large city microrayon in the village of Kudrovo, situated on the oblast's territory, but no end to the talks is in sight.

There is absolutely no justification for the enormous financial expenditure caused by the emergence of parallel federal organs of management—taxation and migration services and antimonopoly committees. Debates are already under way on the division of the committee for ecology. The next candidate is the state administration for internal affairs, then it will be the turn of the Security Ministry directorate. This process could also affect the customs service, which will give rise to consequences as negative as the split of the state administration for internal affairs.

So far the transport system remains unified. But it is not out of the question that given today's rates of demarcation in a couple of years a St. Petersburg inhabitant who wants to travel to Gatchina, for instance, will have to pay an additional transport tax twice to travel on the suburban railroad.

Even now city dwellers are coming up against the problem of "ours" and "theirs." For instance, pensioners who enjoy benefits inside the city limits lose their right to them as soon as they cross the city limits.

In brief, the city dwellers and the rural inhabitants both have quite a few reasons to bear grudges against each other. There are no fewer grudges between the authorities, between whom new disputes are constantly beginning and fierce conflicts are flaring up.

"My year's work as the president's representative has led me to the firm conviction that unless we decide to unite we shall pay for it with many new problems, uncounted financial losses, and unjustified difficulties, which will drastically complicate people's lives," S. Tsyplyayev says.

What is proposed? Clear, specific measures are planned making it possible to avoid breaking anything or destroying it immediately. The city and oblast, having agreed to become a single component of the Federation, conclude an agreement on the gradual process of unification. Until new elections during a transitional period the soviets and both administrations will work as they do now. But here the range of questions on which they must make only coordinated decisions will be specified. That concerns primarily benefits and privileges for citizens, land policy, and the distribution of property.

During the transitional period the executive authorities will create joint commissions to make decisions on the most urgent questions—state-legal questions, questions of trade and tariffs, social policy, ownership, and so forth.

After the single component has been formed a single administration will manage it.

The transitional period in the process of unification will make it possible to smooth over the contradictions and to find sensible compromises. No one has any illusions that what is proposed will be approved and adopted immediately by everyone. You cannot change people's consciousness in a day. For that long, persistent, painstaking work is needed.

Stavropol Cossacks Unite To Protect 'Brothers' in Republics

PM1407152893 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jul 93 First Edition p 4

[Nikolay Gritchin report: "United Cossacks Intend To Defend Their Brothers in the Republics"]

[Text] Stavropol—A major Cossack unification assembly in Novopavlovsk, Stavropol Kray, has proclaimed the formation of the Caucasian Regular Cossacks [Kavkazskoye Lineynoye Kazachestvo], incorporating the Terskoye Cossack Army, the Stavropol Union of Cossacks, and the Cossacks of the Upper Kuban. P. Fedosov, ataman of the Union of Cossacks of Stavropol, was elected ataman of the interregional association, which has its own charter and action program. The force [liniya] will have its center in Stavropol.

Outwardly, this looks like a revival of the ancient tradition whereby the Cossack force in the Caucasus guarded the south Russian border region. And that is the task the Cossacks are tackling today. Lists have already been started of those who, in the fall, will serve in two border detachments and a paratroop division near Stavropol, which it has been decided to man with Cossacks. The Cossacks are prepared to respond to requests by leaders of kolkhozes and sovkhozes near the kray's border and to protect these lands against raids and plundering from neighboring republics.

All the same, this was not the main theme of the unification assembly. The Cossacks embarked on the formation of a new structure first and foremost in order to join together to protect their brothers in the North Caucasus republics. This was stated unequivocally in the program statement by Ataman P. Fedosov and in many Cossacks' speeches. The reason for the concern is the torrent of many thousands of refugees pouring into the kray. The majority of them are the Russian-speaking population of Chechnya, Ingushetia, and Dagestan. The fate of the Russians left behind in those republics is not enviable. Cossacks delegated to the assembly from Chechnya and Dagestan painted pictures each more gloomy than the last. In the villages of Naurskaya and Shelkovskaya, people have been unable to buy bread for five months—the bakery is closed. The Cossacks' pensions are not being paid. In Kizlyar recently there was yet another savage murder of a Cossack who had received a plot of land to build a house. The leaders of a certain national movement would not even allow him to be buried in his forebears' homeland.

All this has predetermined the hard line taken by the united Cossacks. They intend to make the leadership of the national republics heed demands to protect Cossacks from repressions. If the repression of Russians continues, the Caucasian Regular Cossacks are prepared to launch a campaign for the return to Stavropol Kray of "temporarily occupied Cossack lands." As an alternative, the formation of autonomous Cossack entities on the territories of the North Caucasus republics is proposed. Radically minded delegates insisted that the documents adopted should reserve the Cossacks' right to decide by force questions concerning the defense of their brothers in neighboring republics. To this end, it is proposed to set up quick reaction forces.

The results of the Novopavlovsk Cossack assembly foreshadow an exacerbation of the confrontation in the North Caucasus. And although the appeal that it adopted to the mountain peoples of the Caucasus is couched in peace-loving terms, the statement that, given Moscow's unclear position with regard to what is happening in the North Caucasus, the Cossacks assume responsibility for peace in the region, is alarming. Concern is intensified by the breaking off of dialogue with the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus. The atamans of Cossack forces in the south of Russia refused to participate in the congress of peoples of the Caucasus scheduled for 17-18 July in Nalchik.

One of the most authoritative experts, S. Popov, chief of the Stavropol Kray administration's department for interethnic relations, believes that the realization of the united Cossacks' intentions could lead to grave consequences for the entire region. Urgent preemptive steps are needed from Moscow, or failing that Stavropol. In particular, the creation of mixed commissions to study instances of the repression of Cossacks in Chechnya and Dagestan would help significantly to defuse the overheated situation.

Moscow City, Fuel Ministry Agree on Fuel Supplies

PM1507105593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Viktor Belikov report: "Moscow City Hall Promises Light, Heat, and Even Gasoline"]

[Text] An agreement concluded between the Moscow Government and the Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry inspires confidence that the Russian capital will be adequately supplied with energy sources.

The document's signatories, City Government Premier Yu. Luzhkov and Minister Yu. Shafranik, reported that the mutually advantageous agreement consists of two blocs—economic and social. In accordance with the accords in the first of them Moscow—the country's major consumer of energy sources—enjoys priority rights in the supply of oil, coal, and gas, bypassing all kinds of middlemen. Direct contracts guaranteeing the receipt of everything needed for the uninterrupted operation of heat and electric power stations, rayon heating centers, and gasoline stations have been concluded between metropolitan prefectures and companies producing energy raw materials.

The capital will give Fuel and Energy Ministry enterprises plots of land, providing sites for office buildings and housing intended for people working in the Russian fuel and energy complex. Companies extracting oil, gas, and coal have decided to construct 60 new gasoline stations in the capital using their own resources and to take part in modernizing existing gasoline stations.

Besides this, fuel and energy enterprises will take part in constructing a pharmaceutical factory, two superbly equipped polyclinics, and six major supermarkets in the capital using their own resources and construction organizations.

Answering an IZVESTIYA correspondent's question as to what should be done if the measures being taken to supply the capital with vehicle fuel cause a new influx of motor transport into the capital from the provinces, Mayor Luzhkov and Minister Shafranik expressed the hope that a sensible fuel pricing policy and the equalization of the cost of one liter of fuel within the European part of Russia will make it possible to avoid an "invasion" of the capital by vehicle drivers from outside it. These assertions did not sound too convincing.

Gasoline prices in the capital were increased 9 July, Moscow City Hall Press Center has reported. AI-76 costs 95 rubles [R] and AI-92 R100 a liter. Diesel fuel costs R62.

International Affairs

Zlenko Outlines Plans for European Security

AU1507084493 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 10 Jul 93 p 3

[Article by Anatoliy Zlenko, Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs: "A Contribution to Building Security for All"]

[Text] The strengthening of Ukraine's national security is a many-sided problem that encompasses a whole range of issues, including military, political, economic, humanitarian, and other components. Guaranteeing national security envisages the creation of full security guarantees for an individual, people, and nation. Such an approach implies a natural and indissoluble connection between internal and external factors of guaranteeing national security. Without underestimating in this respect the enormous significance of internal factors, we also find it extremely important to achieve a suitably stable, predictable, and advantageous level of the state's external situation. This constitutes the necessary preconditions for "external security" and is one of the main tasks in Ukraine's external policy.

On 2 July 1993, Ukraine's Supreme Council adopted "The Main Trends of Ukraine's External Policy." The document gives much attention to the problem of strengthening Ukraine's national security. This problem has been defined as one of the top priority tasks in the Ukrainian state's external policy. As is known, in its external political activity, Ukraine focuses on creating reliable international mechanisms of security at bilateral, subregional, regional, and global levels, and it is developing cooperation with other states, in particular, neighboring ones, and with international organizations, including military-political ones, in order to fortify confidence, mutual understanding, and partnership, to promote the creation of efficient mechanisms of security in Europe, and to improve mechanisms of global security that exist within the framework of the United Nations.

The radical changes in the world, in particular, the overcoming of the political split of Europe and military confrontation in it, have not reduced the significance of the problems of strengthening security on the European continent. The emergence, at the present new stage, of a whole number of crisis and conflict situations that led to so-called "minor" but bloody wars constitutes a threat to peace in Europe and in the entire CSCE region.

Taking the aforementioned dangerous trends into account, Ukraine is consecutively advocating the creation of a reliable system of general European security and sees in it a precondition for its own security. The resolution of this problem is all the more important in view of the policy pursued by Ukraine's Supreme Council, president, and government toward the country's eventual transformation into a nuclear-free state. As is known, in this connection, we raised the question of granting Ukraine special security guarantees by those states that are permanent members of the UN Security Council and we are actively working in this direction.

The CSCE is presently an all-embracing European structure. It would, therefore, be quite natural and logical if the system of general European security could exist precisely within its framework. However, in view of the specific features of its emergence and development, the CSCE, existing as a political process that has no efficient mechanisms for implementing its decisions, has remained incapable of fulfilling such tasks.

Proceeding from historical experience and from the contemporary political realities, the creation of a comprehensive system of security in Europe would be impossible without a leading role and participation in it of such influential and effective organizations as NATO, the EEC, and the EC. It is our conviction that they must constitute important links in the general system of European security. This is all the more important, since, lately, some great powers have been trying to obtain from the international community a kind of mandate for "special powers" in maintaining stability in the sphere of their own "vitally important interests." Such attempts are incompatible with today's realities and unacceptable in civilized international relations.

It is true that a number of important events have taken place in recent years—NATO specified a new strategy at its session in Rome. At its initiative, the Council of North Atlantic Cooperation was created. It has included, alongside the NATO members, also countries of Eastern Europe and states that used to be USSR republics. The Western European Union is also becoming more active.

However, frankly speaking, the present potential of international relations resulting from the termination of the "cold war" and the stronger preconditions for rapprochement and mutual understanding between world states is not being fully utilized. The series of global problems in the military and political sphere and in the sphere of security remains topical to this day and requires serious practical changes. This also applies to such a problem as revising the role of NATO in contemporary conditions and taking further steps toward transforming this influential military and political organization into a strictly political structure, which would organically conform to the process of building a more stable and secure "general European home" and would contribute to the formation of necessary foundations for a future general European security system.

We believe that last year's CSCE summit in Helsinki adopted an extremely important decision authorizing the use of NATO, EEC, and EC operations to maintain peace by granting the CSCE a possibility to use the resources, special knowledge, and experience of these organizations.

We believe that the formation, within the framework of the CSCE, in accordance with its recent decisions, of a system of early warning, prevention, and settlement of political crises and conflicts is a substantial contribution to the creation of a system of general European security. In this connection, we attach particular significance to the creation, within the framework of the CSCE, of the post of supreme commissioner for questions of national minorities for the purpose of preventing conflicts. Max van der Stoel, an experienced Dutch diplomat, was appointed to this post. As the facts show, his activity, which started recently, is already yielding fruit.

On 15 December 1992, during the meeting of the CSCE Council in Stockholm, Ukraine placed its signature (alongside 28 other European states) under the Convention on Reconciliation and Arbitration, which, when it goes into effect will become yet another important lever for resolving acute problems of our time.

Consequently, as we can see, the formation of mechanisms and elements of the future system of the general European security is gradually gaining strength. However, its development is unfortunately not proceeding fast enough. Ukraine, together with other states of Central and Eastern Europe, feels a certain "security vacuum" in the conditions of instability in the region and sharp restructuring in the system of international relations on the continent. Moreover, time increasingly convinces us that the task of creating a single area of stability and security in the CSCE zone can only be resolved with active assistance from all states that are participants in the CSCE and through using the available reserves and possibilities. Efforts at a subregional level are also necessary here.

Certainly, countries of Central and Eastern Europe are making a great contribution into the development of cooperation and into the strengthening of the stability in the region. This is testified to, for example, by the activity of such associations as the Visegrad Group or the Central European Initiative. This activity deserves every support. It may be intensified and expanded.

All of these considerations have formed a foundation for the initiative with which Ukrainian President L.M. Kravchuk came forward during his visit to Budapest in February 1993. Its main idea is the creation of an area of stability and security in Central and Eastern Europe.

We regard this area as a constituent part of the system of general European security and as an important link uniting western Europe with Russia, that is to say, as an important component in the future Transatlantic security system extending from Vancouver to Vladivostok. At the same time, it is important to realize that all countries, from the Baltic to the Black Sea may be constituent parts of this area, provided they express a desire to cooperate in the atmosphere of trust and full mutual understanding.

Ukraine's initiative does not envisage any special agreements. We propose that Central and Eastern European states, including the European part of the former USSR, develop relations of close and many-sided cooperation and create a system of collective consultations based upon the principles of international law and strict adherence to the main principles of the CSCE.

Such relations, which should probably be reflected in a joint declaration, must be based upon recognizing the world's indivisibility and security, establishing the principle "security for oneself—through security for all," showing respect for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of states, decisively denouncing any territorial encroachments, and acknowledging the inviolability of state borders.

It is expected that states of this region will actively cooperate in questions of prevention and settlement of conflicts and in the development of interaction and dialogue in the sphere of security. This is a specific preventive mechanism for thwarting the development of unpredictable events. The expansion of the cooperation in ensuring human rights and the rights of national minorities, as well as cooperation across borders must become one of the most important trends.

It is necessary to stress that the development of such relations would in no way become an obstacle for the states of the region to join particular international organizations or associations.

The Ukrainian presidential initiative has given rise to heightened interest on the part of European international circles. The majority of neighboring states have welcomed it. Some of them have expressed a desire to hold an exchange of opinions in order to further develop the ideas that have been advanced. Our Western partners are thoroughly studying the initiative. Incidentally, E. Balladur, new prime minister of France, has recently expressed many similar ideas.

It may be said that we are not the only ones who ponder over this problem and that it is a subject of deliberations and search in many countries. This issue organically blends with the general European context. Therefore, we are entering a period of joint work over the initiative with interested states. To this end, Ukrainian diplomats make many efforts, and intensive work at bilateral and multilateral levels is under way. We believe that Ukraine's proposals, amended and, probably, further developed in the course of consultations, will be approved by the community of European countries and will become a weighty contribution by Central and Eastern European states to strengthening stability and security in the entire CSCE region.

Morozov Comments on Russian Position on Sevastopol, Fleet

LD1407185893 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1648 GMT 14 Jul 93

[by UKRINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Kiev, 14 Jul— "The provocational and irresponsible decision by the neighboring state's deputies is most likely to be ignored not only in Ukraine, but also by executive structures in Russia," Ukraine Defense Minister Colonel General Kostyantyn Morozov said in a short interview with Ukrainian journalists today.

Commenting on the act of lawmaking by Russian parliamentarians on Sevastopol, he said that he has reached that conclusion under the influence of the fact that actions by the Russian Supreme Soviet have not been in accord with the policy of the state and the Russian president.

Kostyantyn Morozov noted that, as a result of the Russian parliament's endeavors, the Black Sea Fleet has joined the ranks of anti-Yeltsin structures.

Anti-president, as far as Russia was concerned, and anti-Ukrainian in essence, this structure, which is deployed on our state's territory, poses a double danger to Ukraine. We must take that into consideration, the defense minister stressed.

The Russian parliament's decision has once again made it clear to us that we must get ready to defend our homeland. This is a very important conclusion. This is the conclusion we must face up to, Kostyantyn Morozov added.

He said that at the moment the Ukrainian Supreme Council is deliberating a draft resolution in respect of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's decision on the status of our city of Sevastopol. I heard some of the points being discussed, and fully support them, the defense minister stated.

Speaking on his tour of Sevastopol, he said that it had been a working visit to settle current issues associated with the formation of the Ukrainian Navy in the Crimea.

Official Briefs Envoys on Sevastopol

LD1407204093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] A meeting between Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk and ambassadors of UN Security Council member countries was held in the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry on 14 July.

The foreign diplomats were informed about the Ukrainian Supreme Council's resolution in respect of the Russian parliament's decision on changing the status of Sevastopol.

Borys Tarasyuk made known Ukraine's intention to request the UN Security Council to consider the issue of the illegality of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's resolution.

Presidential Representative Favors United Fleet

WS1507081393 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] In accordance with the decision approved at a joint session of the Sevastopol City Soviet and the city's administration, presidential representative Ivan Yermakov and head of city administration Viktor Semenov will arrive in Kiev on 16 July to meet President Kravchuk. In a conversation with a UNIAN correspondent, Ivan Yermakov said that he would hand the president his proposals on regulating the conflict: "If the fleet remains undivided and belongs to one master, this will suit both the servicemen and their families. Let the fleet remain Russian. However, we should determine who will pay for its maintenance and whose interests the fleet will be protecting. The Russians are our brothers and there should be no problems. A Russian fleet in a Ukrainian city is not a problem; there have been historical precedents of this kind." Viktor Semenov pointed out that the president and the prime minister should immediately be invited to visit Sevastopol in order to resolve the political and economic problems.

Russian Deputies To Proclaim Reunification

WS1507072793 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] According to unofficial sources, a group of Russian Supreme Soviet deputies will arrive in Sevastopol on train No. 25 on 15 July. The group includes Sergey Baburin, Mikhail Astafyev, Yevgeniy Pudovkin, and a number of Russian writers. They intend to bring the documents that confirm the annexation of Sevastopol by Russia and to participate in a rally. The rally will be dedicated to the solemn proclamation of the reunification of Sevastopol with Russia, the election of the Sevastopol Small Council (self rule organ envisioned by the Russian legislation), and the election of the head of the city's Russian administration.

Officials Debate Sevastopol Claims

PM1407150393 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jul 93 p 1

[Interviews with Yuriy Meshkov, people's deputy of Republic of Crimea, chairman of Republican Movement of Crimea, and member of Commission for Talks Between Republic of Crimea and Russia; Oleg Bay, counselor-minister at Ukrainian Embassy in Russian Federation; and Mustafa Dzhemilev, chairman of Assembly of Crimean Tatar People, by Boris Glebov and Yuriy Kulibaba; place and date not given: "Both Ours and Yours...."]

[Text] [KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Yuriy Alekseyevich, how would you comment on the Russian parliament's adoption of the decree "On the Status of the City of Sevastopol"?

[Meshkov] So far Ukrainian diplomacy has been masterly in turning the legal situation over Sevastopol upside down. To date there has not been a single normative act substantiating the claim that the city of Sevastopol belongs to independent Ukraine.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What is your opinion of the "two presidents' treaty" (Kravchuk and Yeltsin) on the partition of the Black Sea Fleet?

[Meshkov] The Black Sea Fleet is a unified organism fulfilling unified tasks for all the CIS countries—guarding the southwest strategic salient.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Will the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decree not lead to interethnic clashes in Sevastopol and on Black Sea Fleet warships themselves? Will the world not get another Balkan conflict?

[Meshkov] In my view the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decision is not going to provoke any clashes on warships or in units of the Black Sea Fleet, still less in Sevastopol. On the contrary, the situation is bound to stabilize in the very near future (as soon as news of today's decision by the Russian parliament reaches the citizens of Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet seamen).

There will be no civil war or interethnic clashes in Crimea—the people of Crimea are united in their desire to protect the Black Sea Fleet from attempts to dismember and Ukrainianize the Russian Taurida [ancient name of Crimea].

[Bay] If you are interested in a legal assessment of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decree "On the Status of Sevastopol," a good acquaintance of mine (a Russian) who is a jurist described this decision of the Russian parliament as "juridically worthless," i.e. one which cannot have juridical consequences. We for our part rely on the fact that, under the Ukrainian Constitution, Sevastopol is a Ukrainian city. All this time it has been funded out of the Ukrainian republic budget and is linked by thousands of threads to both Russia and Ukraine. I have not mentioned the fact that, in the legal sense, a revision of territories and borders is a most gross violation of the Helsinki process and an attempt to "Balkanize" this part of our territory.

Crimea is stuffed with weapons and is an old Soviet military base (naval, missile, air—whatever you like....). Crimea is an eerie place, because it was an all-union sanatorium on a launchpad!

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Tell me, might Ukraine make territorial counterclaims on some Russian lands adjacent to Ukraine—Kuban, for example?

[Bay] Ukraine will never stoop to claims of that sort: such as suggesting that the 600,000 Ukrainians living in Tyumen are a Ukrainian autonomous entity on the territory of Russia.... We treat such things more seriously.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Oleg Sergeyevich, what is your political prognosis—is the political situation over Crimea stabilizing?

[Bay] I believe it is. Neither President Kravchuk nor President Yeltsin will allow anyone or any political force to commit crimes on a historic scale.

It is my profound conviction that any who has a clash between our peoples—God forbid, of course!—on his conscience will be cursed for many generations.

[Dzhemilev] I do not understand who is dividing what. I declare on behalf of my people that we are categorically opposed to any division of our motherland whatever. No decision on Crimea's future adopted without the participation of the Crimean Tatars can be deemed lawful. A meeting will be held in Simferopol at the end of the month, which will adopt appropriate documents and will appeal to the world public for assistance.

Parties, Other Groups View Sevastopol Issues

PM1507102793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Journalist Vladimir Ruban report: "Dyarchy Could Be Established in Sevastopol"]

[Text] Kiev—People in Ukraine are continuing to discuss the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decree on the Russian federal status of Sevastopol. "Left-wingers" and centrists (from the Communist Party to the Liberals) condemn the Russian parliamentarians' decision, while national radicals believe that this has been made possible only thanks to the indecision of the Ukrainian leadership and are demanding the immediate resignation of President Leonid Kravchuk.

The Narodna Rada [Popular Council] democratic opposition in parliament is demanding the urgent withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukrainian territory and the announcement of the republic's secession from the CIS.

The Russian Embassy in Kiev is being picketed by activists of the public Committee in Defense of Sevastopol, which has just been set up. All is quiet at present in the sailors' city itself. Aleksandr Kruglov, leader of the Russian National Salvation Front in Crimea, is returning to Sevastopol from Moscow 15 July with a group of Russian parliamentarians. A "people's assembly" is to be held in the city's Central Square 16 July, at which it is proposed to form a city inner soviet. In the opinion of some experts, there could be a repeat of the Dniester option on the Crimean Peninsula following the establishment of a dyarchy in Sevastopol. The possibility that the local militia and a majority of servicemen will support the inner soviet cannot be ruled out.

Admiral Aleksandr Kalinin, leader of the "Ispolkom gorodov-geroyev" ["Executive Committee of Hero-Cities"] public organization, which functions in Sevastopol, and former commander of the Black Sea Fleet, has declared that the process of the Soviet Union's recreation will commence in Sevastopol.

The leadership of Sevastopol City Soviet is taking a temporizing stand and insisting only on the indivisibility of the Black Sea Fleet.

West Blamed for 'Indifference'

LD1407223193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The text of a statement by the People's Council in connection with the adoption by the Russian Supreme Soviet of the resolution on the status of Sevastopol has been received by Radio Ukraine from Rukh Press.

The statement says in particular that taking that decision was made possible by the fact that the world community and primarily the governments of many Western countries had for a considerable length of time been watching dangerous manifestations of Russian imperial policy with indifference, if not actually encouraging Russia's imperial claims on Ukraine.

The People's Council demands that the Ukrainian president and the Supreme Council ensure that the situation that has come about in connection with the Russian Parliament's decision is considered by the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and other international organizations.

Russian 'Agression' Cited

LD1407184993 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party today made public a statement that regarded the Russian Supreme Soviet's Sevastopol resolution as an act of political-legal aggression against Ukraine.

The conservative republicans consider that the Russian parliamentarians's decision is in pursuit of several tasks: In particular, it is an attempt to mobilize chauvinist and anti-Ukrainian attitudes to retain our state in the sphere of Russia's national interests, and to preserve the empire at Ukraine's expense.

Russian Move Seen as 'Gross Violation'

LD1407185093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] A statement made public by the political council of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Ukraine reads as follows:

The Russian Supreme Soviet decision on the city of Sevastopol's status cannot be regarded as anything other than a gross violation of Ukraine's internal affairs.

The statement stresses that the Russian parliament's provocation will result in intensifying political hysteria and nationalist and chauvinist xenophobia.

Lawyers Assail Russian 'Adventurism'

LD1407184593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The Association of Ukrainian Lawyers today appealed to the United Nations and the Council of Europe, requesting them to denounce the act of political adventurism by the Russian Supreme Soviet regarding Sevastopol.

The association also announced its readiness to provide adequate legal assistance, to prevent a threat to European and world security.

Apart from that, the Association of Ukrainian Lawyers demanded that our state's highest officials should take every measure to protect the lawful interests of Ukraine.

UN Permits Ships To Travel Danube River

AU1507110393 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 10 Jul 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Vessels Sail Along the Danube"]

[Text] After a long break due to the UN sanctions against Yugoslavia, vessels of the Ukrainian Danube Steamship Line [UDP] have resumed their movement along the Danube. All of them have been checked by the UN mission in the control zone and may freely sail to their destination. It is largely a result of the efficient work conducted by the leadership of the steamship line and Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs aimed at improving the system of control over the adherence to the embargo.

It remains uncertain whether somebody will compensate for the losses that the UDP and Ukraine have suffered as a result of the poorly considered actions by the United Nations and Romania. These losses are being estimated. They will come up to several hundred million dollars. For a long time, about 100 out of 600 vessels of the steamship line have been used, while the rest stood idle. As a result, programs for housing and sociocultural construction had to be curtailed, the earnings of the river navigators decreased, and the fleet and ports were not modernized. Navigation was restored too late in the season—when the water level in the river began to fall, so that natural obstacles to the movement of vessels with cargo have emerged.

Government structures, acting through corresponding international organizations, could see to it that the losses be compensated for.

Indian President Agrees To Set Up Joint Economic Commission

BK1507043593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] India and Ukraine have agreed to set up a joint commission to work out strategies for cooperation in the economic field. This was announced by an official spokesman in Kiev after the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, held discussions with several Ukrainian ministers. While talking to the Ukrainian foreign minister, Mr. Zlenko, Dr. Sharma offered the country's help in developing the economy of Ukraine. The Ukrainian foreign economic affairs minister and deputy prime minister also held talks with Dr. Sharma. The foreign minister said Ukraine is keen to develop closer relations with India.

The Ukrainian prime minister, Mr. Leonid Kuchma, hosted a lunch in honor of the visiting dignitary. Mr. Kuchma invited Indian collaboration in the fields of shipping, pharmaceuticals and defense. Dr. Sharma invited Mr. Kuchma to visit India.

Expresses Readiness Build Relations

BK1407132693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The president has said India is ready to share experience and skill which may be useful to Ukraine. He was speaking at a lunch hosted by the Ukrainian prime minister, Mr. Leonid Danylovych Kuchma, in Kiev today. Dr. Sharma said New Delhi and Kiev have been partners of long-standing friendship and New Delhi is determined to build further the time-tested relationship. India greatly values bilateral industrial cooperation for the development of critical sectors of its economy and also realizes the challenge and nature of the task facing the Ukrainian society and the economy in particular.

Earlier, the president visited St. Sofia Cathedral and laid a wreath on the Tomb of Unknown Soldier. The Kiev University is conferring an honorary doctorate degree on Dr. Sharma this evening.

Kravchuk Discusses Cooperation With Turkish Defense Minister

LD1407220893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1956 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Balykov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev July 14 TASS—"Ukraine is interested in friendly and good-neighbourly relations with Turkey and other countries of the Black Sea region. And this is a mutual interest which is seen from the visit of a Turkish military delegation. The results of the talks and the adopted joint documents will promote the strengthening of good-neighbourly relations between the neighbouring countries," Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said at a meeting with Turkish Defence Minister Nevzat Ayaz on Wednesday.

During the talks the two leaders touched upon issues of military cooperation and the international security. Colonel General Kostyantyn Morozov, the Ukrainian defence minister, has positively assessed results of the official meeting with the Turkish defence minister, saying the two sides expressed a common point of view on the security of the Black Sea region. Morozov assured the Turkish guest that the Ukrainian side would do everything possible to develop relations with Turkey.

The Turkish defence minister said that the first Turkish-Ukrainian agreement on friendship and cooperation was signed in 1922. Last year, the heads of our countries restored the agreement, which promoted the signing of many other interstate acts. During the two years since Ukraine became independent, contacts between the two countries have been noticeably stepped up. The visit of the Turkish delegation and mutual understanding which was established between the Ukrainian and Turkish Defence Ministries will further promote the development of good-neighbourly relations between our people, the Turkish minister said.

The Turkish and Ukrainian defence ministers signed a memorandum on mutual understanding, which laid a legal basis for cooperation in military sphere. The sides reached an agreement on the exchange of information, technical experts, working groups from military headquarters, the experience and ideas in the area of international security.

National Affairs

Crimean Government Reorganization Detailed

PM1407145593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Nikolay Semena: "Crimea Will Have Its Own Ministers"]

[Text] Simferopol—On the day the Sevastopol question was discussed in the Russian parliament, in Simferopol a session of the Crimean Supreme Soviet was examining the concept of reforming the structure of the organs of state power and local self-management.

The concept of the reforms was set out to the deputies by one of its authors—Boris Samsonov, chairman of the Crimean Council of Ministers—and after the discussion of his report the session adopted a law which provides for the creation of 12 ministries and 18 state committees in Crimea in place of the present 40 administrations and departments of the council of ministers. This government will be headed by the Crimean president. The executive committees in the cities and rayons will be under his subordination.

As for the organs of self-management, parliament has decided to transfer the law on self-management for examination in the commissions and then to submit it to the September session, although the draft which already exists stipulates that in accordance with the Crimean Constitution it will be the soviets in the villages and population centers that will manage municipal property. The rayon and city soviets (they are called dumas in the draft) will consist of village elders or chairmen of rural soviets and in the cities of a small number of elected deputies.

The actual assertion of a free economic regime in Crimea by President L. Kravchuk's decree has been greeted with disapproval by many Ukrainian parliament deputies who have seen in it new steps by Crimea on the path of separatism. But to all appearances these opinions will not be able to paralyze Crimea's desire for greater economic autonomy. Counter to threats from Kiev, Crimea will soon have its own ministers. The threat from Moscow was far more unexpected. The decision on the federal status of the Russian city of Sevastopol made by the Russian parliament puts Crimea on the verge of a very acute conflict that could deprive it of hopes of lifesaving foreign investments. As Vadim Kolesnichenko, a Crimean parliament deputy, put it: "That is primarily a knife in the back for Yeltsin. In the struggle between the two lords—Yeltsin and the Russian parliament—it is Crimea which will get its head smashed."

Military Families Evicted For Not Taking Oath

PM1407142193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jul 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Get Out of Sight, Out of the House"]

[Text] According to reports in local newspapers, officers' families in which the heads of the households have not taken the Ukrainian oath and who, thus, have "gone over to serve in the Russian Army," have started to be evicted in Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast. The military prosecutor's office of the local garrison has already sent more than 20 suits to court, and almost half of them have been satisfied.

Communist Party Leader Outlines Election Plans

WS1407141293 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 6 Jul 93 p 4

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Mykhaylo Melnyk: "They Will Fight for Leadership"]

[Text] The Communist Party of Ukraine [KPU] will fight for the political leadership but what kind of a party it will be, one will be able to say only after a new parliamentary and presidential election. The KPU's first secretary Petro Symonenko stated so at a news conference held in Kiev. In other words, recognizing the multiparty system, the Communist Party would like to be the leading political organization, he added.

Petro Symonenko discussed the workings of the KPU Congress held in Donetsk on 19 June, the documents adopted by the Congress, and the composition of the leadership. The most important task for the party, he mentioned, is to collect the number of signatures required for registration. As to the property and membership fees once nationalized, it is not a priority for the KPU at the moment.

The KPU intends to closely cooperate with the communist parties of the other former USSR republics and fight for the creation of a new union of brotherly nations on a new basis. Oleksandr Kotsyuba and Yevhen Marmazov, KPU secretaries and Ukrainian people's deputies, also answered questions asked by journalists.

Ecological Group Proposes Referendum on Reactor Moratorium

WS1507104893 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 6 Jul 93 p 2

[Untitled report from the "Time. Politics. Rukh" column attributed to Rukh-Press]

[Text] Kiev—The leaders of the Zelenyy Svit [Green World] ecological association have proposed to hold a referendum on 26 September on the issue of a moratorium on opening new atomic reactors. This initiative will be discussed at the 3-4 July session of the Green Council in Nikopol, Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, with the participation of various social and political organizations as well as people's deputies from the cities located in the vicinity of the nuclear power plants.

Belarus

Opposition Criticizes Shushkevich's 'Unpricipled Compromise'

WS1407143293 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 0940 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Unattributed BELINFORM report: "Political Declaration of Legislative Opposition"]

[Text] Today, the members of the legislative opposition, who refused to conduct a vote of no confidence in Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich last week, have issued a political statement.

We have no grudge against Stanislav Shushkevich and his activities in his high post, the statement says. The members of the legislative opposition do not support him because of "his unprincipled compromise with the communist nomenclature majority, which put forward the issue of his dismissal."

The authors of this statement declare that the only way out of this situation is as follows: Stanislav Shushkevich should put forward for national debate the issue on the illegal ban (in fall 1992) of the referendum on the early elections of the legislature and the early dismissal of the acting legislature.

If Stanislav Shushkevich continues his policy of compromise and indecision, the deputies-democrats "will hardly support him and will not protest against the forcible changes in the Supreme Soviet leadership."

Legal Experts Advocate 'Strong Presidency'

WS1507110293 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Shall Belarus have a president? The legislature has been seeking an answer to this questions for a couple of years. While the majority of deputies at last fall's session considered that there was no need for this post in the Republic, the situation has changed now. A large group of deputies is convinced that there is a need to introduce the presidency in Belarus. The next question is: What powers should the president be granted? Scientists from the State Law and Management Department at the Institute of Philosophy and Law of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences, have submitted their proposals for the Supreme Soviet's consideration. The legal experts have come to the conclusion that there is no alternative to a strong presidency in the Republic.

Future of Currency Unresolved

WS1407142493 Minsk RID in Russian 1101 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Report by RID correspondent Boris Shavarskiy: "Does Belarusian 'Zoo' Need Such 'Gift Horses?'"]

[Text] The Belarusian National Bank has sent out telegrams to the commercial banks with instructions to make all cash payments in "rabbits" [reference to Belarusian currency which is imprinted with pictures of animals] There are enough Belarusian accounting banknotes to satisfy the Republic's needs in cash.

At the same time, on 30 June, in Moscow, our representatives signed an agreement with the Russian Central Bank stating that the "soviet" 1961-1991 banknotes will continue their circulation in Belarus. The Russian Central Bank has even promised to deliver such banknotes to Minsk. In connection with this, it is still not clear whether "rabbits" will remain the sole legal tender on the Belarusian territory.

State Secretariat for Combating Crime Created

WS1407144293 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] By government decree, on the basis of the Department for Public Security and Defense and the Office for Classified Work of the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers, the State Secretariat for Combating Crime and National Security was established. Danilov was nominated the state secretary for combating crime and national security.

Supreme Soviet Presidum Discusses Legal Education

LD1407200293 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Stanislav Shushkevich today chaired a sitting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus. The sitting considered the main positions of the concept of development of legal science and education, submitted by the commission of the Supreme Soviet for issues of legislation. A decision was taken on establishing diplomatic relations with the Republic of Maldives and Jamaica. Other issues were also considered.

Moldova

Snegur Discusses Economic Performance, Reforms

AU1507095193 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1611 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 14/7/1993—The national TV and radio posts have broadcasted today the speech of President Mircea Snegur. Particularly, it regarded the disaster in the basic branches of the national economy and especially the huge social price paid by Moldovans in the period of transition to a market economy. According to Mr. Snegur, these are caused by the crisis of state powers and the weak manner of promoting the reforms. These circumstances were pointed out for the first time by the President at the June governmental session.

President Snegur believes that Moldova had and still has chances to provide a quite efficient model of economic reforms as it enjoys technical and financial assistance from the International Monetary Fund. He rejected accusations by the opposition that the Presidency has no conception and plan of activity.

The president said that the restructuring of the monetary and credit policy will create conditions to introduce a national currency. The reform of the taxing system and of the fiscal policy in general will be aimed at reducing the budget deficit down to the world level. It will also decrease the pressure over small businessmen, is foreseen to reduce the expenses for the administrative apparatus and will cut down any inflationist financing. The presidency will promote firm measures to speed up privatization in industry, trade, agriculture. The privatization programme for 1993-1994 is to be started next month. Also, the improvement of external economic relations will gradually eliminate all the restrictions in exports and will introduce low and stable import taxes. President Snegur insisted on the elaboration of an allocation and protection system for foreign investments. This system should be more attractive than it is in other ex-communist countries. In the opinion of President Snegur, important goals include the establishment of social security and an efficient insurance progreamme, especially in the case of vulnerable social categories.

Snegur Denies Ties With Romania Deteriorating

LD1407125193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1127 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau July 14 MOLDOVA-PRESS-TASS—On the eve of his official visit to Romania, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur told the Romanian daily "EXPRESS" that there was no truth in the opposition's allegations that relations between Romania and Moldova were deteriorating.

Snegur said his talks in Bucharest will centre around the creation of free economic zones in the border areas of the two countries and the further development of economic and cultural cooperation.

Snegur said Moldova's foreign policy was not dictated by Moscow because the leadership of the Russian Federation recognised the republic's independence and sovereignty, even though the leaders of the Dniester Republic wield certain influence on some political circles in Russia. He said the Tiraspol leadership's desire to turn Moldova into a confederation was a brake on economic reforms.

Referring to an agreement he signed with the president of Russia on July 21, 1992, Snegur said, its main effect was to end bloodshed.

Confrontation 'Looms' Between President, Speaker

PM1507094993 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 16, 14 Jul 93 (signed to press 13 Jul 93) p 2

[Sixth Floor report: "Confrontation Between President and Speaker Looms in Moldova"]

[Text] According to informed sources, a political confrontation is looming in Moldova between President Snegur (the former Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee secretary for agriculture) and Speaker Lucinschi (the former first secretary of the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee).

Lucinschi recently visited Romania and held consultations with Bucharest leaders. Thus Lucinschi is maintaining and developing his ties to Romania—as nationalistically minded politicians are demanding—while at the same time starting to revive the destroyed economic ties to the republics of the former USSR.

IMF To Allocate $70 Million To Stabilize Currency

LD1407152293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1404 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau July 14 TASS—Despite the fact that Moldova has failed to fulfill many recommendations given by the International Monetary Fund [IMF], the IMF is prepared to allocate 70 million dollars to Moldova for the stabilisation of its national currency (the lei).

IMF experts insistently recommend that Moldova put its own money into circulation, saying that the Moldovan national currency would help combat soaring inflation.

Western experts do not seem to take into account that Moldovan banks are poorly equipped and that its budget deficit considerably surpasses required 5 per cent, apart from Moldova's barter foreign economic activities and many other problems.

At the same time, the president of the Moldovan National Bank keeps saying that this summer the national currency will not be introduced. However, many Moldovan citizens dismiss these statements as "a smoke-screen" to cover up the plans of those who have been preparing a monetary reform.

Russian Rocket Brigade Withdraws From Dniester

AU1507095093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1611 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Tighina (Bendery), BASAPRESS, 14/7/1993—Reliable sources informed BASA that the Rocket Brigade of the Russian 14th Army has finished its retreat from Tighina. Almost all the patrimony and weaponry of the brigade had been moved to Russia. The buildings of the Tighina Fortress, which belonged to the Brigade, were transferred to the Russian peace keeping forces from the area.

School Director Fired for Refusing To Submit to Dniester

AU1507095393 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1611 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Tiraspol, BASAPRESS, 14/7/1993—Nina Ghidirimskaya, director of the school of the Roghi village, Dubasari Region, has been fired by the city authorities for refusing to pass the school under the jurisdiction of [the] Dniester [Republic], stated today DNESTROVSKAYA PRAVDA of Tiraspol. Ghidirmiskaya had also opposed the pressure demanding to teach Romanian using Cyrillic graphology. Before this, the city authorities decided to oblige the Roghi school personnel to pass under the jurisdiction of the Dubasari executive, which is subordinated to Dniester. "We have opposed the teachers to decide until the 1st of September whether they will keep their jobs under Dniester, or will leave their working places for others," stated Ivan Sechunik, the Deputy Chairman of the City Executive, at the end of June.

Russian MP Attacks Chisinau as 'Rebel,' 'Heretic'

AU1407182793 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 12 Jul 93 p 3

[Report by Mihai Vicol: "The Pro-Russians Want 100 Percent Soviet General"]

[Text] Sergey Baburin, a communist member of parliament from the Russian Federation, who hopes for the reunification of the former Soviet empire visited Tiraspol for a few days. He is supported by the separatist and pro-separatist forces in Tighina [Bendery] and Tiraspol, as well as by a certain segment of the pro-Russian population in the Republic of Moldova. In Comrade Baburin's view, Chisinau is a "rebel" and "heretic." The so-called democratic press of the Russian Federation believes that last year's war on the bank of the Dniester River was a "brutal intervention by the Moldovan Army in an attempt to take Bendery (Tighina) under its control." This ideological diversion of the pro-imperial Russian forces is designed to create the impression that the Republic of Moldova is guilty of committing crimes on the bank of the Dniester.

On this occasion, Galina Andreyeva told Comrade Baburin: "We will again gather weapons and will fight against Lebed." Why this anti-Lebed position? For the simple reason that the Russians here need a 100 percent Soviet general. They want a new Ossetia and are trying to launch a new armed conflict, and this time around one much bloodier than last year.

Police Predict Further Exacerbation of Crime Situation

AU1507110593 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 10 Jul 93 p 5

[Svitlana Chala report from Chisinau: "Face to Face With Crime"]

[Text] According to the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs, the current year is characterized by a rise in the number of those crimes that criminologists refer to as especially grave. Over the first four months alone, the number of murders rose by 43 percent as compared with last year's estimate. Minors and unemployed people have joined the ranks of criminals. In view of the fact that new staff reductions at Moldovan enterprises are expected in the near future, officers of the law-enforcement organs predict a further exacerbation of the crime-breeding situation.

"The police has found itself face-to-face with crime, and state bodies do not afford sufficient support," Moldovan Minister of Internal Affairs C. Antoci stated recently. The situation is aggravated by the shortage of skilled personnel: 40 percent of the investigators are people without higher education.

The black market is also generating economic crime. According to the chief of the economic police, he is particularly concerned about illegal commercial activity and widespread bribery. The absence of corresponding articles in Moldovan criminal legislation leads to a situation where the police only record facts of violations of law. People's judges cannot deal with some criminal cases due to the lack of a legal basis. The criminals, getting away with it easily, return to their criminal activity and rob the state. In particular, they illegally take away goods from Moldova. Nobody is presently able to say how much is being taken away and how much brought in, because the Republic has no special controlling bodies. According to an economic police officer, "Moldova is increasingly turning into a yard with a passage through which everything can pass."

Kazakhstan

Baykonur Workers Protest to Russian, Kazakhstani Leaders

LD1407155593 Almaty KAZTAG in Kazakh 1300 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Almaty—The staff of the military and construction detachments at Baykonur have sent a letter to the Russian and Kazakhstani presidents and the chairman of the Kazakhstani Supreme Soviet and the chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. In it they expess regret that it took such a short time to destroy something that needed decades to build. Until recently, space launches were a symbol of power of the USSR but are not needed now by any of the CIS countries. Nor are the people who decided to link their fates with developing outer space and the launching sites needed.

It hurts to look at Leninsk, which until recently was the pride of the whole country, the letter says. [passage omitted]

In connection with this, the authors of the letter raise the issue of the need for the speedy tackling of Baykonur's problems. [passage omitted]

Independent Companies Form TV Consortium

LD1407144993 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0600 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The Sary-Arka television consortium has been set up as a result of the amalgamation of 16 independent television companies from different regions of the republic.

Izya Fidel, president of the new corporation, reported at its inauguration that only by pooling efforts of the small companies can we create a common informational and advertising space and install sophisticated equipment at our stations.

They have already began exchanging video clips and they intend to set up their own republican channel in the future.

Kyrgyzstan

Committee Denies Rumors of USAF Base Opening

LD1407124693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Kyrgyzstan's State Committee on Defense has denied rumors that the U.S. Air Force might open a base in one of the republic's oblasts, EKSPRESS KHRONIKA reports. Meanwhile, experts believe that this is the reason why the United States is helping Kyrgyzstan by providing grain, money, and consultations. The fact that Pentagon experts have paid frequent visits to Kyrgyzstan lately is no coincidence, EKSPRESS KHRONIKA notes.

Tajikistan

Foreign Minister Reports on Border Attack

LD1507064093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0617 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow July 15 TASS—Tajik parliament President Imamali Rakhmanov accompanied by Major-General Anatoliy Chechulin, commander of Russian frontier forces in Tajikistan, visited the 12th border post of the Moscow borderguard detachment on Wednesday evening, Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov said to ITAR-TASS in a telephone conversation on Thursday.

They examined on the spot the consequences of the brazen attack committed by armed Afghan mujahideen and Tajik gunmen on July 13.

He said that, according to information from Russian frontier forces, 22 border guards were killed as a result of the clash, including 17 Russian citizens, three Tajiks and two Uzbek citizens.

The toll also includes three servicemen from the Kulyab Motorised Regiment: one Russian and two Tajiks. There are also casualties among civilians. It is difficult to list these casualties, since many civilians are now returning to their native places, and some of them were killed or wounded en route to their homes from Afghanistan.

A nearby village was considerably damaged, with some houses being completely destroyed or burnt down.

To reinfoce this section of the border, a decision was taken to establish another border post with troops from a brigade of the Tajik National Security Committee.

Olimov said that Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, is waiting for the arrival of Russian legislators who will come here on a fact-finding mission.

Casualties From Attack Detailed

LD1507092193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0816 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 15 Jul—According to updated information, 25 border guards were killed in the attack on the 12th Russian Border Post in Tajikistan, including three servicemen from the 201st Russian Motorized Rifle Division. [passage omitted]

In the border post area, the bodies of 40 attackers, 20 missile-propelled projectiles, submachine guns, and machine guns were found. The enemy managed to take several dozen bodies back to Afghanistan.

According to the press service of the Russian Federation Border Troops, at present the situation at the post is under control and repair work is under way.

Foreign Ministry Protests to Afghan Consulate

LD1407162593 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] As a correspondent of the KHOVAR agency was told in the department of information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, a protest note was delivered to the consulate of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in Dushanbe on the evening of 13 July. The note states the following:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan has to declare to the consulate of the Islamic State of Afghanistan that at 0400 today, 13 July, a group of armed people and Afghan mojahedin numbering some 200 attacked Sarigor village of Shurabadskiy rayon. The attackers used mortars, rocket launchers, and recoilless guns. An Afghan field commander named Kori Hamidullo headed the group. Under his leadership, in April-May this year in the same rayon, the state border was repeatedly violated and provocative armed actions were launched deep into the territory of Tajikistan. The entire command of the operation and also the supply of resources and arms is carried out by the commander of the 55th Infantry Division of the Ministry of Defense of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [words indistinct].

This group plundered (?the farms) of Sarigor and attacked the (?border picket) of the Russian border troops [words indistinct] of Russian border troops, subunits of the 201st Motorized Rifle Division, [words indistinct] Interior Ministry of the Republic of Tajikistan are leading combat actions to liberate the abovementioned area of the territory and expel the invaders from the territory of Tajikistan. The attacking side has suffered big losses. The number of killed and wounded among the civilians and the Russian border troops is being ascertained.

The Foreign Ministry states with particular alarm and anxiety that the participation of the commander and subunits of the 55th Infantry Division and citizens of the Islamic State of Afghanistan may bring about an undesirably tense situation and complicate the relations between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

The Foreign Ministry of Tajikistan expresses the categorical protest of the government of Tajikistan to the consulate. It views this attack as a hostile and dangerous provocation, and an attempt to encroach on the territorial integrity of Tajikistan. The government of Tajikistan stresses its adherence to preserving and consolidating good-neighborly and friendly relations with Afghanistan, but at the same time has to note that any aggressive action against Tajikistan will be repulsed using all [words indistinct]. The government of Tajikistan awaits immediate reaction on the part of the official authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Grachev Promises To Defend Russians, Border

LD1407194093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By A. Ilyin, including recorded remarks made by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] In connection with an aggravation of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, the Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev sent a statement to the Supreme Soviet today. [passage omitted]

[Grachev] The situation is such that it requires an instant decision. Now everything depends on our legislative power. Having made my statement, I would like to reiterate that we are ready to defend, first of all, the Russian-speaking residents of Tajikistan; secondly, the population of a state with which we maintain friendly relations; and thirdly, to defend our border guards.

Defense Minister on Necessity of Russian Troops

PM1407113993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Jul 93 p 3

[Vasiliy Likholet report: "Tajikistan Forming Its Own Army. But, in Republic Defense Minister's Opinion, Russian Troops Still Remain a Stabilizing Factor"]

[Text] A Tajikistan Supreme Council session has adopted a package of military laws. In this connection republic Defense Minister Major General Aleksandr Shishlyannikov answered questions put by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. He stressed that a strengthened legislative infrastructure makes it possible to continue military organizational development in a planned manner. The laws "On Defense," "On Conscription and Military Service," and "On the Status, Guarantees, and Social and Legal Protection of Servicemen and Members of Their Families" reflect the content of the treaties and agreements that Tajikistan has concluded with other CIS states and at the same time take account of the internal features and specific conditions existing in the republic.

Maj. Gen. Shishlyannikov drew attention to the fact that the establishment of the national army is taking place in complex conditions. And it is very important that today the majority of the people support the measures to strengthen the Armed Forces, seeing this as the only reliable means for safeguarding stability and a peaceful life.

The Tajikistan Armed Forces are continuing to form their own Ground Forces, Air Force, and Air Defense Forces. The 11th Separate Special-Purpose Brigade

Named for Brigade Commander Fayzali Saidov is also currently participating in the protection of the republic.

The Tajikistan defense minister also stated that the presence of the 201st Russian Motorized Infantry Division in the republic has been and remains a powerful stabilizing factor. The passage of time, Shishlyannikov noted, will bring conditions making it possible for all Russian servicemen to return home. And when that day comes, the people of Tajikistan, who have felt the support of Russian people at a time when they were in difficulty, will bid them farewell with flowers and words of gratitude. But for the time being the presence of the 201st Division in Tajikistan is a necessity.

Armenia

Spokesman Expresses Support for CSCE Initiative on Karabakh

LD1407204993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1813 GMT 14 Jul 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan July 14 TASS—"Armenia is interested that the initiative put forward by nine countries of the CSCE Minsk group on the Karabakh settlement be carried out promptly and efficiently," a representative of the Armenian president told a briefing in Yerevan today.

The Armenian president's press secretary said that during recent months "the authorities and the president made considerable efforts in this direction both at international institutions and during talks held at different levels and meetings with the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh."

The president's spokesman pointed out the importance of political and technical assistance rendered to Armenia by the mission of the chairman of the Minsk CSCE group Mario Raffaelli in the Caucasus.

In the opinion of the presidential press secretary, chief obstacles to the implementation of the CSCE initiative are being put up in Azerbaijan. The press secretary said that "the warring sides—Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh and the mediator—The CSCE Minsk group—should make sure that each of them can fulfill demands to effect a ceasefire and that the peaceful process will not fail once it has begun."

Azeri 'Hostages' Arrive in Yerevan

NC1407130693 Yerevan SNARK in English 1030 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Stepanakert-Yerevan, Jul 14 (SNARK)—5 hostages, Azeris by nationality (2 old people and 3 children from Kelbadzhar region) have come to Yerevan from Stepanakert with Mario Raffaelli.

SNARK's reporter told from Stepanakert that the Karabakh leadership showing its good will appealed to Raffaelli to accompany hostages to Baku where came back from Yerevan after his visit to Karabakh.

Meanwhile, the trustworthy sources told SNARK Raffaelli left Yerevan for Baku without hostages. Five hostages are in Yerevan now waiting for a Red Cross plane from Georgia which will come to take them to Azerbaijan.

Karabakh Defense Head Says No Withdrawal of Troops

NC1407130393 Yerevan SNARK in English 1030 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Stepanakert, July 14 (SNARK)—"We can't withdraw troops from Kelbadzhar, it will break the security for the population of Karabakh", Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the Karabakh State Committee of Defense, has said today to the journalists at the press-conference in Stepanakert. Commenting on the results of the Raffaelli's visit Kocharyan expressed his idea of the CSCE control which is necessary just after Azerbaijani's forces entrance the region. According to Kocharyan, the CSCE representatives understood the Karabakh leadership anxiety in connection with the internal political situation existing in Azerbaijan. The Karabakh side didn't receive any response.

Authorities Report Calm in Karabakh

NC1507104493 Yerevan SNARK in English 0929 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Stepanakert, July 15 (SNARK)—Quietness at the Karabakh fronts. The defense authorities of Karabakh told SNARK no clashes during the period of yesterday evening and last night.

The observers explain the quietness by the reaction the CSCE mission showed to the problem after its visit to the region.

Gumbatov Arrests Azerbaijani Popular Front Activists

NC1407193693 Yerevan SNARK in English 1519 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, July 14 (SNARK)—Alikram Gumbatov's armed men group arrested the chairman of the Lenkoran Branch of the Azerbaijani Popular Front [AFP] Vahgif Abyshev [as received] and five APF activists in Lenkoran this morning, informed TURAN NEWS AGENCY referring to the Azerbaijani popular front press centre. (Alikram Gumbatov announced "half independence" from Baku). Gumbatov accuses the arrested men of a destructive activity. The arrested went on hunger-strike protesting against the Gumbatov's group actions.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Views Results of CSCE Conference

LD1407202893 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1053 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Statement at news conference by Azerbaijan acting President Geydar Aliyev on results of CSCE Minsk Conference on Azerbaijan; in Baku—live]

[Excerpts] Esteemed representatives of the media: Our news conference today is dedicated to the results of the conference which was just held in our region, in Azerbaijan and Armenia. Since we have translators in here, I don't think it matters if we speak in Russian. Of course, questions can be asked both in Russian and Azeri.

[switches to Russian] Esteemed representatives of the press, representatives of media agencies: Our news conference today is dedicated to the results of the visit to our region, to Azerbaijan and Armenia, and to the activity of the CSCE Minsk conference on the problems of Nagorno-Karabakh.

I will fill you in briefly about our negotiations and the results (?achieved), then Mr. Raffaelli, chairman of the Minsk conference of the CSCE, will fill you in, and then we will be ready to answer your questions.

I think you will consider the following reasons sufficient for the fact that the conference set for yesterday, the news conference, did not happen. This is because the timetable which had been drawn up jointly, that is, by Mr. Raffaelli and ourselves, did not allow for Mr. Raffaelli's return from Nagorno-Karabakh, from Khankendi [Stepanakert] to Baku at 1800. [passage omitted]

It was simply said from our side that despite the high authority of the Minsk conference and of the CSCE as an authoritative international organization, and the United Nations, over the period that has passed, unfortunately, the work that has been undertaken and the efforts of both the CSCE and the Minsk conference on a peaceful settlement of the conflict over Nagorno- Karabakh have not produced any results. [passage omitted]

At the same time, we must point out that following the seizure of Kelbadzharskiy Rayon by Armenian armed formations, Resolution 822 was adopted by the UN Security Council. After this the CSCE and its Minsk conference boosted their activity considerably, and, as you know, a tripartite document was signed between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and representatives in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Based on this document, the CSCE Minsk Conference proposed a plan of practical peaceful resolution of the conflict, starting with the withdrawal of Armenian armed formations from the territory of Kelbardzkarskiy Rayon. The implementation of the plan and of the timetable mapped out by the CSCE Minsk Conference was due to take place in June. However, after the June events this was postponed by about one month. [passage omitted] On the night of 9 to 10 July, Mr. Raffaelli and his delegation finally arrived in Baku. We began negotiations on 10 July.

I must say that our talks were conducted in a spirit of mutual understanding, frankness, and constructiveness, and of course, we indicated our desire to ensure that Mr. Rafaelli's planned program and timetable were achieved. When Mr. Raffaelli arrived in Baku he presented the program for his visit here [passage omitted]

We accepted this program with gratitude and began to implement this program. On 10 July we had a very detailed conversation. We found mutual understanding on all questions. On 11 July Mr. Raffaelli was in Yerevan with his delegation, and he returned to Baku that evening. In the evening of 11 July we had another meeting. Mr. Raffaelli informed us of the results of his talks with the leadership of Armenia, with President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and other officials, and the question came up of his trip to Agdam and on to Khankendi on 12 July.

A problem arose here which had been raised in Armenia and, in particular, as Mr. Raffaelli said, by those persons who are now in charge of Nagorno-Karabakh. They stated that it was not possible to travel from the town of Agdam to Khankendi because, they said, all the borders around the positions occupied by the Armenian armed formations had been mined and that it was necessary to travel there via Armenia. This question was posed to Mr. Raffaelli when he was still in Yerevan. The suggestion was made to travel from Yerevan via the Lachin corridor to Khankendi. Mr. Raffaelli, himself, and the members of his delegation, of course did not agree with this. He told us this when he was here in Baku and again when he returned from Yerevan. Of course, we could not agree to this at all.

Therefore, during the evening of 11 July we spent a lot of time seeking ways of getting to Khankendi via Agdam because his arrival in Agdam was scheduled for 12 July. However, when the Armenian side firmly stated that it would not undertake to guarantee the security, due to the fact that the whole section there was mined, the alternative option of going to Khankendi via Azerbaijan's Fizulinskiy Rayon was discussed. However, the Armenian side responded that all was mined there as well.

Of course, we do not believe it and did not believe it then. I trust that Mr. Raffaelli also stated that he did not believe it either. However, such a statement was made, and it also implied again that safety would not be guaranteed. That is why, driven by the desire to ensure the accomplishment of Mr. Raffaelli's mission and to enable the Minsk conference to start implementing its program and the schedule of troop withdrawal from Kelbadzharskiy Rayon, we developed a compromise option: Mr. Raffaelli and his delegation would fly by plane from Baku to Tbilisi, from Tbilisi take military helicopters to Khankendi, from Khankendi he would return to Tbilisi and then to Baku.

Mr. Raffaelli's delegation was in Agdam on 12 July. They saw all the destruction there and witnessed the aftermath of aggressive actions of Armenian formations. Mr. Raffaelli would speak of this himself no doubt. I am just recalling this to remind him. He said he had been there a year ago, and he was distressed by very substantial changes there and the destruction of the town resulting from military actions, and naturally, from attacks by Armenian armed formations.

When on the evening of 12 July Mr. Raffaelli stated that no mines were to be seen there, it became clear that such demands by the Armenian side were connected with we know which reason. That is why it was agreed to go to Khankendi via Tbilisi, and Mr. Raffaelli took a plane to Tbilisi, and then, as we know now, a helicopter to Khankendi. We were expecting him to come back from Tbilisi yesterday.

We even scheduled a news conference for late afternoon, and then rescheduled it for 2300. But as we learned later, there were some technical hitches, and the weather also prevented him from coming back. He had to spend the night in Khankendi. This morning they managed to get to Yerevan by helicopter, and from there, by plane, here to Baku. We held final talks, and now we have come to this news conference.

I would not like to dwell on details, but to our great regret, the schedule proposed by the Minsk conference, and by Mr. Raffaelli personally, which was accepted by us, and also, as Mr. Raffaelli tells us, by the leadership of the Republic of Armenia, this schedule was not accepted in Nagorno-Karabakh. As Mr. Raffaelli informed us today, certain objections had been raised there which made it impossible for them to agree to sign this document again [as heard], so that the implementation of the schedule could begin.

When we spoke with Mr. Raffaelli two nights ago, he said that they had to go back soon. Therefore, they were to fly to Rome last night, after having talks with us, in order to begin the practical implementation of the outlined schedule. The schedule envisaged that observers would arrive in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon on 16 July, settle there on 18 July, and Armenian armed formations would withdraw from Kelbadzharskiy Rayon around 20 or 21 July. As this is, basically, a very important issue for us, we have, I reiterate, always sought a constructive approach in talks with Mr. Raffaelli. We have to some extent agreed to compromises in terms of, this time, how to get to Khankehdi, etc., in order to start the implementation of the schedule as soon as possible.

Now, however, Mr. Raffaelli has already specifically indicated that the schedule would not be implemented from 16 July as planned, because he and his mission have to make an official request for information on certain points to the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh and to receive an official reply from them.

Mr. Raffaelli says that they have raised certain objections there on three points. He says that the first two objections are regarded as ungrounded, and the third one, according to Mr. Raffaelli, is connected with some issues that I consider to be quite easily solvable. The question is that when the withdrawal of Armenian armed formations from Kelbadzhar begins, observers and some men from the Azerbaijani side would be brought in. With what kind of weapons? There was a provision in the original plan for small arms. What are small arms? What is implied by small arms, and so on? What kind of mandate will the observers have? However, as I understand today from the information provided by Mr. Raffaelli, these questions are of technical nature and can be easily resolved. But at least Mr. Raffaelli believes that in order to eliminate these points they have to make an official request to the leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh, to receive their reply, after which, they will start the implementation of the schedule with a few days' delay.

Mr. Raffaelli informed us today that on 16 July the Minsk conference, i.e. nine members of the CSCE, are gathering in Vienna to discuss the issue. As we understood from Mr. Raffaelli's words today, the matter under discussion will be this slight delay. But, generally speaking, the stance taken by the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh, of those people who are at present in command in Nagorno-Karabakh, is not clear enough, and even equivocal.

For example, I was considerably surprised yesterday, when at midnight the Moscow Novosti Program relayed a report that Nagorno-Karabakh had disagreed with the proposal of the Minsk conference and the mission of Mr. Raffaelli, and had postponed this by one month due to the allegedly unstable political situation in Azerbaijan. Mr. Raffaelli is also surprised by this, considering that he had said that the schedule would only be postponed by a few days.

But, at the same time, I have told Mr. Raffaelli—and I say it again now so that everybody knows—that of course after the bloody events in Ganja on 4 June, the internal political situation in Azerbaijan has become complicated, but to say that there is not sufficient stability to settle these issues, or that the conditions are not right for settling these issues, is impossible, because we are in complete control of the situation, in complete control of the situation in Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, in a telephone conversation with Armenian President Lev Ter-Petrosyan that took place in the presence of Mr. Raffaelli, he also said that he will be making all possible efforts to ensure that the Minsk conference mission comes to fruition. We hope so. I will conclude on that point, and give the floor to Mr. Raffaelli.

Raffaelli Says Armenian Troop Withdrawal Postponed

LD1407155793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1444 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Baku July 14 TASS—The withdrawal of Armenian forces from the Kelbadzhar region of Azerbaijan scheduled for July 16 was postponed for several days because of objections of Nagorno-Karabakh, according to Mario Raffaelli, chairman of the CSCE Minsk group of countries for Nagorno-Karabakh.

Raffaelli told a news conference in Baku on Wednesday [14 July] that some of the objections of the enclave are of political character and are groundless. Others are of purely technical character and can be easily solved, he said, adding that the implementation of other provisions of the CSCE plan was postponed as well.

Although Raffaelli refused to say when exactly the pullout will begin, he added that it will take place "in a brief time span".

"The talk is not about a month as several mass media hurried to report, but about several days", he added.

Raffaelli, who secured a release of five Azeri hostages in Nagorno-Karabakh and brought them to Baku, said that in general he was satisfied with the mission to the conflict zone and stressed that the leaderships of Azerbaijan and Armenia displayed flexibility in discussing complicated problems.

Leader of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev dispelled allegations that Azerbaijan cannot secure the implementation of the CSCE plan because of a crisis at home.

"Of course the situation in the republic has aggravated after the well-known events in June, but it would be wrong to say that there is no stability here. The republican leadership fully controls the situation", he told the press conference.

Aliyev said that negotiations with Raffaelli were held in the spirit of understanding, in a frank and constructive atmosphere. The success of the mission is important both for Azerbaijan and for the prestige of such international organisations as the United Nations and the CSCE, he added.

Meets With Aliyev

NC1407191693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, received Mario Raffaelli and the delegation accompanying him today. Raffaelli and his delegation have returned from their visit to Khankendi [Stepanakert]. Geydar Aliyev said that he was worried because Mario Raffaelli failed to return to Baku on time. He said he was later informed that the participants of the peace mission would return to Baku on 14 July. Aliyev said that the officials waited for Mario Raffaelli to return to the building that houses the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet until 2300 on 13 July.

Mario Raffaelli said that his late arrival in Baku was due to the accident his helicopter was involved in while taking off in Khankendi. He also said that he and his delegation had to remain in Khankendi during the night. No one was hurt in the accident. Raffaelli and his delegation arrived in Baku at noon today and [words indistinct].

Raffaelli said he would have been able to bring back two sick Azerbaijanis if they had not had additional problems.

Prime Minister Surat Guseynov and State Adviser Vefa Kulizade attended the meeting.

Report on Armenian Problems With CSCE Agreement

NC1407140293 Baku TURAN in English 1202 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, July 14 (TURAN)—M. Raffaelli has spent the last night in Nagorno-Karabakh, the republican Defense Ministry reported TURAN agency. According to the protocol, M. Raffaelli was to arrive in Baku last night and to held a press-conference at 6 p.m.. But the negotiations in Khankendi lasted till late at night, because the parties couldn't achieve an agreement, the informed source at the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reported TURAN agency correspondent.

To the available information, Armenian party isn't agree to implement the "urgent measures schedule", worked out by CSCE. As known, this document envisages the withdrawal of the Armenian forces from Kelbadzhar and other regions of Azerbaijan and the start of the talks over the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. Earlier Karabakh Armenians, as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan and Azeri community of Karabakh, signed this schedule, but it wasn't implemented, as Armenian Army launched a large-scale offensive upon Agdam region of Azerbaijan June 13 and seized new territories.

With a big particle of possibility one can suppose that, if CSCE initiative would fail once more again, then it will cause sharp aggravation along all the line of Azeri-Armenian front.

According to the reports from Agdam, M. Raffaelli has left for Baku from Khankendi at 11 a.m. local time and has already arrived in Baku. It is expected that he will meet with G. Aliyev and held a press-conference after that.

Karabakh Leaders Express Doubts

LD1407134293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—International peace negotiator Mario Raffaelli ended talks with the leadership of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave and left the region early on Wednesday.

At the talks, Nagorno-Karabakh leaders focused on some particular aspects of the problem which need additional discussion until a final decision is adopted, according to Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh State Defence Committee.

Nagorno-Karabakh leaders expressed doubts that guarantees issued by the Azerbaijani side could last long in conditions of political instability in Azerbaijan. Of special concern is the position of Turkey, one of the members of the negotiation process, which has declared Armenia an aggressor. This runs counter to documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE] and UN Security Council Resolution 822.

The enclave authorities also believe efforts should be made to correct the schedule of the withdrawal of Karabakh troops from the Kelbadzhar District of Azerbaijan since the present one does not contain "a mechanism preventing a new wave of militarisation of this district of Azerbaijan."

The Nagorno-Karabakh Army Command said that after a three-day break its troops came under attack in the Askeran District when Raffaelli was still in Stepanakert, the capital of the disputed enclave. The attack was launched from the Agdam District of Azerbaijan.

Cost of Armenian Offensive Relayed to CSCE Envoy

NC1407133093 Baku TURAN in English 1202 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, July 14 (TURAN)—A large-scale offensive, started by Armenian Army upon Agdam region June 12 caused Azerbaijan a damage of 157 billion rubles, the head of the executive power of Agdam Nadir Kuliyev reported Mario Raffaelli during the visit of the Italian diplomat to Agdam July 13.

As the result of the Armenian offensive 22 villages were incinerated, 150 civilians were killed and 500 were wounded, tens of enterprises and economic buildings were demolished and plundered. As the result of the latest offensive of the Armenians 60,000 people of the population of Agdam region remanned the "Army" of Azeri refugees, the number of that approximate to 600,000 people.

Unofficial Nagorno-Karabakh Truce Broken

LD1407123593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Azerbaijan has broken an unofficial truce between the warring sides in Nagorno-Karabakh, SNARK news agency reports. Positions of the Karabakh defense army in Askeranskiy Rayon were shelled last night from Azerbaijan's Agdamskiy Rayon. The truce was declared in connection with the fact that Mario Raffaelli, the chairman of the Minsk CSCE group on Nagorno-Karabakh, was due to arrive in the region. This morning Raffaelli left Stepanakert for Yerevan. His talks with the Nagorno-Karabakh leaders failed to yield any results.

Armenian Responsibility Claimed

NC1407132893 Baku TURAN in English 1202 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, July 14 (TURAN)—Azeri Defense Ministry reports about the breach of treaty on mutual cease-fire by the Armenian Armed Forces.

July 13 evening the town Terter suffered an artillery shelling from the upland part of Karabakh. 4 town-dwellers were wounded.

Last night and this morning Armenian Forces shelled the villages Gushchular, Gishlag and Suleymanli of Dzhebrail region.

National Assembly Opens Session in Baku

LD1507120093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1139 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS and AZERTAC]

[Text] Baku July 15 TASS—A session of the Azeri National Assembly opened in Baku today. Members of parliament will hear a report of the Parliamentary Commisson for investigating the developments in the city of Gyandzha and will discuss the appeal of the Prosecutor-General's Office on instituting criminal proceedings against Ikhtiyar Shirinov, former head of that institution, as well as against Sulkhatdin Akperov, first deputy minister of national security.

The agenda of the session includes a report of Chairman of the Azeri Parliament Geydar Aliyev, who is now acting president of the republic, on talks with Chairman of the Minsk Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh Mario Raffaelli and on the work of the CSCE peace-keeping mission in the region.

An appeal of members of the Collegium of the Azeri Supreme Court is expected to be read at the session, and a number of new ministers are expected to be introduced to the National Assembly.

Calls For Elections in Sep

LD1407113593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] The Parliament of Azerbaijan has decided to hold presidential elections in September. President Abulfaz Elchibey, who has been removed from power, continues to stay in his native village in Nakhichevan. He annulled his own decree on handing over part of his powers to the speaker of parliament Geydar Aliyev. Elchibey's supporters promised to return him to office by all means. They intend to hold a meeting in Baku on Saturday [17 July] in which they say Elchibey himself will take part.

Report on Turkish Guards for Elchibey Denied

PM1407140393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jul 93 p 3

[Letter from Gasan Zeynalov, permanent representative of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic in Baku: "It's Not Turks Who Are Protecting Elchibey..."]

[Text] PRAVDA for 6 July 1993 published a report from the KHABAR-SERVIS agency saying that around 150 armed men who had crossed the Turkish-Nakhichevan border 29 June 1993 had arrived in the village of Kaleki in Ordubadskiy Rayon to protect President Abulfaz Elchibey, who finds himself there. The Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic's Permanent Mission in Baku, Rashid Gasanov, first deputy [chairman] of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic Supreme Assembly, and Ali Gasanov, leader of the press center, report that it is untrue that 150 armed men crossed from Turkey to the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

State Secretary Cites Need for Competent Specialists

LD1407194293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By correspondent Mamedov, including recorded excerpts of interview with Azerbaijan State Secretary Lala-Shovket Gadzhiyeva; place and date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Pavel Ogorodnikov] From Abulfaz Elchibey's statement that [Geydar] Aliyev and [Surat] Guseynov have committed a military coup-d'etat [voenno-gosudarstvennyy perevorot], it appears that the power struggle in Azerbaijan will last for a long time. This is also borne out by the tough stance of the People's Front and by appointments of new people to top state posts. The most recent of them is the appointment of Lala-Shovket Gadzhiyeva to the post of state secretary.

[Mamedov] A specialist in surgery, Lala-Shovket Gadzhiyeva has spent more than half of her life away from home, working in Moscow. There she is known as department head in the Institute of Public Health. As doctor of medicine, she was also head of an expert group under the Russian Supreme Soviet, working out the law on public healthcare.

[Gadzhiyeva] Anton Chekhov used to say that indifference is paralysis of the soul. One cannot stay indifferent in such a critical and hard moment for one's homeland. I would never forgive myself for this.

[Mamedov] She is convinced that Azerbaijan will find a way out of the crisis only if all key post are entrusted to well-educated and competent specialists.

[Gadzhiyeva] We should assess people by other criteria—not those of being a communist, or a democrat, or reds, blacks, and whites. The criteria should be those of intellect, education, conscience, decency, and virtue.

[Mamedov] The new Azerbaijani state secretary is also known as an active supporter of democratic forces in Russia. In August 1991 she was among those who defended the White House.

[Gadzhiyeva] We must stop using these buzzwords—empire, post-empire, and so on and so forth. We must not forget our history—we are connected with Russia by 300 years of history, of mutual influences of our cultures. I would like to see our links strengthened, but not at elder-younger brother level—this would be an insult for any people—but on the basis of equality, mutual respect, and mutual advantage.

Oil, Gas Production Down From Last Year

PM1507103393 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 16, 14 Jul 93 (signed to press 13 Jul 93) p 7

[Eldar Zeynalov report: "Oil Production in Azerbaijan Falls"]

[Text] Baku—Production of oil and gas condensate in January-May 1993 was 4,390.2 tonnes, whereas the figure for the same period last year was 4,678.1 tonnes.

Georgia

Shelling Near Sukhumi Reported; Villages Seized

NC1407132993 Yerevan SNARK in English 1030 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Tbilisi, July 14 (SNARK)—Press-center of Georgian Military Forces told SNARK last night was hard, the battles in the Sukhumi direction were going on. The Abkhazian side carried out the attempt to land the forces in the region of the Babushara village which is situated between Sukhumi and Ochamchira. There were found five military ships which were in the course of Babushara. They fired the settlement but the shore artillery launchers made them stop and prevented the forces landing. The ships left for Gudauta.

Sukhumi was again shelled during the last night with artillery. There are destructions. No concrete data on the victims.

The Georgian troops managed to capture the Labra village in the Ochamchira direction.

Eight Killed in Shelling

LD1407153893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By correspondent Nana Gongadze from Tbilisi; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The ultimatum presented by the Georgian defense minister to the Gudauta group expires at midnight today, 11 months after the war in Abkhazia began. [passage omitted] Eduard Shevardnadze said that this war has been imposed upon us. Georgia, more than anybody else, is interested in ending it as soon as possible.

In response to the ultimatum, Abkhaz artillery again shelled Sukhumi today, destroying several buildings, killing eight people, and injuring 30 innocent civilians.

Pro-Georgian Committee Calls for End to War

LD1407161493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1539 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria and GIA-TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi July 14 TASS—It was relatively calm in Sukhumi on Wednesday afternoon [13 July], ITAR-TASS learned from the press centre of the Georgian military headquarters in Sukhumi at 17.30 P.M.

The Georgian Armed Forces have completed the liquidation of Abkhazian military formations which had been earlier encircled near the village of Zegani of the Sukhumi region. The Abkhazian formations suffered heavy losses in manpower and ammunition. An armoured carrier belonging to the Abkhazian infantry and a lorry with soldiers aboard were destroyed by Georgian forces near the village of Shroma in the Sukhumi region.

The pro-Georgian Committee for the Salvation of Abkhazia made an address to all citizens of Georgia and Abkhazia on Wednesday.

"The fratricidal war unleashed by separatists has been going on over 11 months," the address says. "The losses and damages caused by the war to the people of Georgia and Abkhazia are immeasurable, with thousands of young people and hundreds of peaceful civilians killed and many people injured and crippled. People have suffered immeasurable moral damage as well. The bloodshed cannot continue any more," the statement said.

The Salvation Committee has called upon all honest and peace- loving citizens of Georgia and Abkhazia to give a resolute rebuff to those "advocating war to win a final victory and demand that politicians resolve disputes in an exclusively peaceful and civilized way". "We believe in the triumph of justice," the address said.

Government Ultimatum Expires; No Reaction on Front

LD1507055593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0543 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva:]

[Text] Sochi July 15 TASS—An ultimatum declared by the Georgian Defence Ministry to the Abkhazian side expired last midnight. The ultimatum said that if the Abkhazian side did not withdraw its troops from the villages of Shroma and Akhalsheni and did not stop shelling Sukhumi, Georgian troops would mount a large-scale offensive at the Gumista front.

However, according to a report from the press centre of Georgian troops deployed in Abkhazia, the Georgian side did not launch any offensive operations on July 15 at 06:00. According to the same source, Abkhazian artillery shelled the city of Sukhumi twice overnight. There were no changes at the Gumista front.

Abkhazians Reject Ultimatum

LD1407125393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1206 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi July 14 TASS—Abkhazians turned down the Georgian ultimatum demanding that they withdraw from two villages and cease shelling of Sukhumi and threatening a major offensive on Abkhazian headquarters in Gudauta.

Deputy chairman of the Abkhazian parliament Sokrat Djindjolia said the ultimatum "causes bewilderment".

"Abkhazian forces have liberated the villages of Akhalsheni and Shrom from occupants and nobody is going to return them to the aggressor", he said.

Djindjolia accused Georgia of trying to split the people of Abkhazia and their leadership by such ultimatums and "to raise the morale of the Georgian army and the Georgian people".

In the meantime, the Georgian government introduced censorship on reports from the conflict zone.

The document called "On urgent measures to protect military and state secrets in mass media in connection with the proclamation of the martial law in Abkhazia" drastically limits the work of local and foreign reporters who are now allowed to publish their reports only upon permission of the press service of the Georgian Defence Ministry or of the state inspectorate on protection of secrets in mass media.

According to the document, the official Georgian information agency becomes a monopolist in covering the events in the region.

Only military reporters can now be allowed to the zone of conflict upon a permission of the Defence Ministry.

Georgian secret services and the prosecutor's office were instructed to investigate every case of disclosing military and state secrets.

Government Troops 'Regrouping'

LD1507083893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0740 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By GIA correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Sukhumi, 15 Jul—As a GIA correspondent was told at the press center of the Georgian troops stationed in Abkhazia, Georgian troops have carried out a tactical regrouping of their forces. After a two-month break, Georgian ships have again gone out into the open sea on patrol.

Comparative calm has been observed today on the front line, although six enemy shells have exploded within Sukhumi without causing serious damage.

Gunfire Exchanged

LD1507084193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0809 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Zurab Argun]

[Text] Gudauta July 15 TASS—Units of the Abkhazian Army are fighting for separate heights, the press service of the Abkhazian Defence Ministry reports. The sides exchange gun fire, shelling at concentrations of personnel and combat equipment. The populated localities of Akhalsheni-Shroma and nearby heights are controlled by Abkhazian units. In the easterly direction, Georgian troops are shelling the populated localities of Labra, Baslakha and positions of the Abkhazian troops.

Abkhazian Forces Reportedly Retreating

LD1507100493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0756 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Report by Zviad Migatia of the Georgian Armed Forces press center in Sukhumi; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...they probably squandered the last chance to settle the conflict by peaceful means, and therefore the Georgian Armed Forces, intent on defending the territorial integrity and borders of the Republic, were also deprived of this opportunity.

The ultimatum has worked to the opposite effect. In a lightning move, they stopped their offensive and started to retreat. They began regrouping their forces by transferring forces from attacking positions to various intervals on the front line. In their radio messages intercepted during the night, they systematically warned each other of an expected Georgian offensive. They went as far as leaving without resistance the strategic height of Zegani and retreating. For their part, the Georgian Armed Forces carried out tactical regrouping during the night. Georgian warships also put out to sea during the night.

Ominous silence set in on the whole front line at night. However, the opposing side shelled its own people as usual. Six shells went off in various districts of Sukhumi. Fortunately the explosions did not cause casualties or serious damage.

Government Imposes Censorship on Reports on Abkhazia

LD1407111693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0942 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 14 Jul—The Georgian Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a resolution "on urgent measures to protect military and state secrets in the mass information media in connection with the declaration of a state of war in the Abkhazian region." This document in essence introduces rigid censorship on the transmission of reports from the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict and substantially restricts the work of local and foreign journalists. In particular, material connected with military operations can now only be published with the permission of the press service of the Defense Ministry or of the state inspectorate for the protection of secrets in the mass information media under the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers.

Under the same resolution, the GEORGIAN INFORMATION AGENCY (GIA) is given a monopoly over the coverage of events in Abkhazia. Only war correspondents may be allowed into the zone of conflict and then only with the permission of the Republic's Defense Department. The information and intelligence service (the successor to the Georgian KGB—ITAR-TASS) and the procuracy of the Republic have been instructed to react to every single divulgence of military and state secrets.

Source of Abkhazia's Arms Supplies Questioned

MK1407122093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jul 93 p 3

[Guga Lolishvili article: "Where do Weapons in Hot Spots Come From? Tensions Do Not Abate in Sukhumi Sector"]

[Excerpt] The escalation of the Georgian-Abkhazian military conflict as an additional factor of internal Georgian politics has made prospects of general stabilization in the country even more illusory.

Economics and politics form one tight knot in today's Georgia. The continual war on the Black Sea coast, and the strong financial and economic crisis present a real threat of irreversible sociopolitical processes. The only anticrisis program under prevailing conditions is a course toward freezing the conflict in Abkhazia.

A serious hurdle in its path, from Tbilisi's point of view, is the radical stance of today's Abkhazian leader, who rejects offers of whatever status for Abkhazia as part of the Republic of Georgia and who pursues a policy of Abkhazia's complete secession and possibly becoming part of Russia. This position heightens Russia's strategic interests in this part of the map and actually puts Moscow on the level of interested countries. Whereas in the Russian White House they show sufficient restraint in regard to the policy followed by Ardzinba and, for that matter, to the Georgian leaders' policy in regard to Abkhazia, certain circles—most of which gravitate to the Russian Supreme Soviet—sometimes show a much greater interest in a suitable solution to the Abkhazian question.

As for the United Nations and the other international organizations, they are not able today to propose any mechanism to settle the conflict. Actively cashing in on this are members of the so called military-industrial complex of the former USSR whose activities are not fully under control of the new states. This situation is graphically shown in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. Whereas the presence of armaments, or at least part of them, in Georgia's regular forces can be accounted for by Georgia's receiving them according to the Tashkent quotas, and the presence of Su-25 attack planes in Georgia's Air Force by the fact that these planes are manufactured by the aircraft factory located in the republic's capital, one cannot virtually say from where Abkhazian formations are getting their weapons. It is known for certain that the Abkhazians did not have an army before the start of the conflict with the exception of paramilitary detachments (which have appeared in all Caucasus states in recent years), and there were of course no weapons, let alone aircraft. Vladislav Ardzinba, in an interview with Russian television, explained the presence of arms on the Abkhazian side by huge amounts of equipment captured in battles with Georgian units. But the history of wars knows not a single case where one of the warring sides, totally unarmed at the start, became fully armed with captured weapons after a certain period of time.

All this is evidence that there exists a ramified structure of the military-industrial complex of the former USSR engaged in secret deliveries of weapons to the hot spots. It is becoming increasingly clear today that in conditions of political corruption, reactionary lobbies in some cases provoke the creation of seats of tensions in a bid to get new arms markets. [passage omitted]

Deputy Premier Receives Russian Ambassador

LD1407200493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Yesterday Roman Gotsiridze, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Georgia and head of the headquarters for economic reform, received Vladimir Zemskiy, the ambassador plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Georgia, at the latter's request.

The discussion dealt with the main aspects of the implementation of economic reforms in Georgia, results that may be expected from reforms, and other issues.

Roman Gotsiridze brought the Russian ambassador's attention to the fact that the de facto economic blockade of Georgia by Russia had harmed Russia itself, because being in blockade conditions Georgian enterprises had been forced to revise their industrial-territorial links, and a large proportion of them had already opted for alternative producers. As a result, Russia had lost lucrative export opportunities. Among the main reasons for [word indistinct] of economic reforms and the falling output in Georgia, Roman Gotsiridze listed developments in Abkhazia and Russia's hostile attitude toward our republic.

He pointed out that of the former Soviet republics only Georgia had not received a technical credit from Russia. It was also said that it was time to define the attitude of the Russian Federation as a whole toward Georgia, since the theory that destabilization in Georgia is encouraged not by Russia, but by Russian reactionary forces had completely run out of steam.

Vladimir Zemskiy thanked Roman Gotsiridze for receiving him and said that the content of the discussion would be conveyed to the supreme leadership of the Russian Federation.

Criticizes Economic Blockade

LD1407122393 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1515 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] Today, 13 July, Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Roman Gotsiridze received Russian Ambassador to Georgia Vladimir Zemskiy at the latter's request.

During the meeting, they basically discussed questions of carrying out economic reforms in Georgia. Roman Gotsiridze drew the attention of the Russian ambassador to the fact that the economic blockade declared by Russia on Georgia has in effect also weakened Russia itself, which has lost one of its important markets. Among the reasons hindering the implementation of economic reforms, the deputy prime minister cited the events in Abkhazia and the inimical attitude of Russia to our republic. Roman Gotsiridze also noted that Georgia is the only one of the post-Soviet republics not to have received technical credit from Russia.

Russia Continues Efforts To Resolve Abkhaz 'Impasse'

PM1507090093 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jul 93 First Edition p 7

[Aleksandr Shinkin report: "Fighting Continues in Abkhazia"]

[Excerpts] Every day they take lives and bring people pain and suffering. The latest round of Georgian-Abkhaz talks has been broken off indefinitely. That means that once again dispatches from the Gumista front will be heard on the air.

According to Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov, the president's special representative, the cease-fire talks ran aground following the Abkhaz side's inclusion in the document of a point on the restoration of the legitimate organs of power, including the Abkhaz parliament, in the republic immediately after the withdrawal of Georgian troops. The Georgian delegation refused to consider this demand and stated that it reserves the right to reconsider the accords already reached. [passage omitted]

Russia is continuing to seek a way out of this impasse. "In Abkhazia, it is apparently possible," Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray told journalists after the Dagomys conference on the problems of the North Caucasus region, "to apply a system of sending in peacemaking forces analogous to that applied in South Ossetia. Otherwise the bloodshed will not stop." Admittedly, he observed, life is not yet stable there, but people are not being killed any more. And again it was stressed that Russia could act as guarantor of peace in Abkhazia.

But words have yet to produce any results. And each side in Abkhazia is trying to get its own way by force of arms. [passage omitted]

Russia Cuts Telephone Lines

LD1407214693 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Deputy Communications Minister Vakhtang Todua has told us that Moscow has disconnected telephone channels between Moscow and Tbilisi. Seven channels have been disconnected. The reason for this is our tense financial—and not only financial—relations with Russia. Mr. Todua said that a cable has been sent to Russian Communications Minister Bulgak. The communication will be restored in two days. In the meantime, foreign countries are reached via satellite.

Lack of Agreement Cited

LD1507105193 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Due to the actions of Intelcom, a joint stock company of the Russian Communications Ministry, there has been a sharp reduction in the international telephone channels accessible for Georgia. In fact, this organization has closed them.

At the moment, only 20 out of the existing 500 channels are functioning.

(Nugzar Kakhiani), head of the technical directorate of the Georgian Communications Ministry, said Intelcom explained its move by the absence of an agreement between Georgia and Russia as a result of which there is no system of settling accounts for outgoing and incoming telephone conversations.

For its part, the Georgian Communications Ministry is not being paid by Intelcom for its participation in setting up telephone communication from abroad via Moscow to our republic.

Law on National Security Council Issued

AU1507083393 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 9 Jul 93 p 3

["Republic of Georgia Law on the Republic of Georgia National Security and Defense Council" issued in Tbilisi on 2 July]

[Text]**Article 1.**General Rules

The Republic of Georgia National Security and Defense Council is a body of state administration in the sphere of defense and security that is accountable to the Georgian Parliament.

The tasks, functions, and procedure regarding the formation and work of the council are determined by this law and other Republic of Georgia legislative acts.

Article 2. The Tasks of the Council

The main task of the council is to assist in ensuring the defense and security of the country, the protection of the state sovereignty of Georgia and the security of the people, the establishment and strengthening of political, economic, and social stability in the state, and the formation and implementation of the country's peace-oriented foreign policy course.

Article 3. The Functions of the Council

In order to implement its tasks, the council:

- —Examines and resolves the most important questions of internal and external policy that are directly connected with ensuring the defense and security of the state;
- —Controls the combat readiness of the Armed Forces;
- —Outlines military tasks for the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces and exercises control over their fulfillment;
- —Coordinates military scientific-research work;
- —Examines questions concerning the training of military cadres, their placement, and military call-up and mobilization;
- —Supervises, controls, and coordinates the activities of defense bodies and the safety and protection of public order and concerns itself with improving its structures and implementing a purposive cadres policy in these bodies;
- —Organizes and controls the activities of Republic of Georgia ministries, committees, departments, agencies, state administrative bodies in the autonomous republics, and local state administrative bodies in the republic in the sphere of security and defense;
- —Adopts measures aimed at exposing internal and external danger that threatens the defense and security of the Republic of Georgia and takes the appropriate action to prevent it;
- —In emergency situations, implements operational measures to warn of serious political, social, economic, ecological, and other consequences and adopts

measures aimed at liquidating serious consequences;

- —Organizes and controls the elaboration and implementation of measures to reliably protect and ensure the safe functioning of facilities that are of vital importance to the Republic of Georgia;
- —Appoints representatives of the National Security and Defense Council vested with emergency powers in regions where there are emergency situations;
- —Examines materials concerning persons being appointed to top military positions and materials pertaining to the conferment upon them of top military ranks and submits proposals to the Georgian head of state;
- —Carries out other functions provided for in Republic of Georgia legislation. **Article 4.** The Powers of the Council Under Martial Law and a State of Emergency

Under martial law and a state of emergency, the council can resolve any questions relating to the competence of the Cabinet of Ministers. Under martial law, the council is also empowered:

—To introduce a special regime relating to the departure of citizens from the territory of the Republic of Georgia and the entry of citizens onto the territory of the state;

—To revoke any decision adopted by local bodies of power if it hinders the implementation of martial law or the resolution of other tasks facing the council. **Article 5.** The Composition of the Council

The composition of the council is as follows:

The chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state—chairman of the council;

- The Republic of Georgia prime minister—deputy chairman of the council;
- The Republic of Georgia deputy prime minister responsible for industry;
- The Republic of Georgia minister of defense;
- The Republic of Georgia minister for foreign affairs;
- The head of the Republic of Georgia Information and Intelligence Service;
- The chairman of the Republic of Georgia Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations;

The chairman of the Georgian Parliamentary Commission for Defense and National Security;

The mayor of the city of Tbilisi;

The Republic of Georgia procurator general.

The chairman of the council has the right, if necessary, to include other officials in the council in an advisory capacity. **Article 6.** The Commissions of the Council

When it is necessary to carry out large-scale work in connection with individual questions, the council forms corresponding commissions in order to implement its functions and tasks.

Both council members and other persons may become chairman and members of a commission. **Article 7.**The Work Procedure of the Council

A sitting of the council is held twice a month; if necessary, an extraordinary sitting may be convened at the request of the council chairman or a majority of council members.

The council is empowered to adopt decisions if more than half of the total number of voting council members are present at the sitting. The council adopts a decision by a simple majority of votes. In the event of a division of votes, the chairman has the deciding vote.

The council chairman presides over a sitting of the council. He determines the agenda of the work of the council and the procedure for examining questions.

In the event of the council chairman being unable to implement his powers, his duties are fulfilled by the deputy chairman of the council.

Taking into account the particular nature of questions under examination, the leaders of autonomous republics, ministries, committees, departments, agencies, towns, and rayons may be invited to participate in the work of the council in an advisory capacity.

Specialists may also be invited to participate in the work of the council.

The apparatus of the Georgian head of state carries out the organizational and technical arrangements pertaining to the work of the council. **Article 8.**Council Decrees

The council adopts decrees.

A decree comes into force after it has been signed by the council chairman.

[Signed] Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state

[Signed] Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian Parliament.

Tbilisi, 2 July 1993

Estonia

Talks With Russia End; No Agreements Ratified

WS1507083293 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1849 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Tallinn, July 14—The 13th of round of Russian-Estonian negotiations finished on Wednesday [14 July]. According to the head of the Estonian delegation Juri Luik, no agreements were ratified, but as the result of the hard work of committees, three to five agreements will be ratified in the next round.

Luik said that the agreement about withdrawal of Russian military forces should be under discussion again next week, when the head of the Russian delegation Vassiliy Svirin visits Tallinn.

The head of the Russian delegation Vassiliy Svirin told a press conference that the small progress which was achieved, was, however marred by laws, concerning the Russian-speaking population, Estonia has adopted lately. Svirin said that having read the final version of the Law on Aliens, the Russian delegation found it necessary to make a statement, saying that the law discriminates against the political, civil, human and property rights of the Russian speaking population.

Juri Luik, however, said that the wave of negative statements made by the Russian Federation lately, does not encourage people to choose Estonian citizenship. "There are 70 to 80 000 non-Estonian people, that are lawful Estonian citizens on the basis of family relations, etc. but have not applied for an Estonian passport." said Luik.

The next round of the negotiations will take place at the beginning of September in Moscow.

Laar: 'No Illusions' Over Success of Talks

PM1507092293 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jul 93 First Edition p 7

[Zarema Khakimova report: "Estonia: Talks That Do Not Inspire Optimism"]

[Excerpts] Tallinn—The Russian and Estonian delegations met near Tallinn. The latest round of talks had been due to take place 6-7 July, but Estonia requested a week's postponement "for technical reasons."

But, as Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar hastened to warn us, there should be no illusions about their effectiveness. The Estonian-Russian talks, he said, are deadlocked. None of the Estonian side's constructive steps is producing results, he stressed. "We offered to discuss with Russia projects for the construction of housing for the troops being withdrawn from Estonia," Mart Laar said. "In reply, Russia confined itself to the abstract enumeration of the astronomical sums that would require." (According to the Russian delegation's figures, the cost of apartments and amenities for the servicemen and their families would total $235 million). The prime minister thinks that the talks reached an impasse long ago and that the recent deterioration in Russian-Estonian relations will have no effect on them.

Is there any prospect of breaking the deadlock? Vladimir Chuykin, chairman of Narva City Soviet, believes, for instance, that Russia is unable to influence Estonia's policy aimed at forcing out the Russian-speaking population. [passage omitted]

Russia, in agreeing to the treaty "On the Fundamentals of Interstate Relations," also agreed in advance to the entire policy pursued by Estonia with regard to the Russians. Many international observers, therefore, make the following comment—not without malice—on Russia's stance: First it abandoned the Russians without making any stipulations about the conditions of their life in Estonia, and now it is demanding amendments to Estonian laws.

Admittedly a Russian-Estonian interparliamentary commission was set up to monitor the treaty's fulfillment, but its activity has not produced any tangible results. Nor is it likely to. The Estonian side is represented on the commission by politicians who are far removed from the present parliament. The commission, headed by Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Deputy Nikolay Medvedev, recently met in Narva with city soviet deputies, businessmen, and intelligentsia from the city. In the old jargon, the meeting could have been called a report on the fulfillment of the agreement, if the commission had had anything to report.

Nikolay Medvedev admitted: Estonia is not fulfilling its promises to Russia and is not fulfilling its obligations to noncitizens living on its territory. "The problem of the Russian community should be tackled within the framework of the interstate treaty, which unfortunately contains legal inaccuracies and shortcomings. But it is difficult to rectify it today," he observed.

Russia certainly has no legal mechanism for protecting Russians and upholding its own interests in Estonia. Therefore the Russian president, Supreme Soviet, and Foreign Ministry are forced to resort to sharp words and warnings of sanctions. They have no other, more civilized means of influencing the situation. Nor is Russia capable of sending in the marines, as the United States does for the sake of its fellow citizens and compatriots. It remains to be hoped that all the problems can be alleviated and resolved at interstate talks.

Russia Calls Changes to Aliens Law 'Cosmetic'

LD1407202593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2006 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn July 14 TASS—The 13th round of Russo-Estonian talks ended here on Wednesday [14 July]. The heads of the negotiating teams, Russian Ambassador

Vasily Svirin and Estonian Minister Juri Luik, held a joint news conference on the results of the talks which showed that relations between Russia and Estonia, "not unclouded nearly in all spheres", especially aggravated after Estonia passed a package of laws and decisions on the rights of ethnic Russians living in the republic.

The Russian delegation made a statement on Wednesday concerning the Law on Aliens adopted by the Estonian Parliament in a new wording. The statement says "the changes and additions to the earlier passed law are minor in character and purely cosmetic".

The statement suggests that the two sides work out and sign an agreement on settling citizenship problems on the basis of Article 3 Part 1 of the Russo-Estonian Treaty on the Principles of Inter-state relations signed on January 12, 1991.

Russia regards this treaty as a starting point for the negotiations, which have already been held for over a year. The Estonian side prefers referring to an earlier document, the Tartu Peace Treaty signed in 1920, which the Russian Parliament Presidium thinks should be denounced.

As for the 13th round of negotiations on the whole, it was centred on drafting certain documents and decisions which are to be adopted in the near future. Thus, a tentative agreement was reached on compensating Estonia for the costs of weapons and Army property confiscated in 1940. Juri Luik told reporters that the sides had estimated this property at 200 mln U.S. dollars.

The next round of negotiations is scheduled to be held in Moscow in early September.

Foreign Ministry Protests 'Interference' to Russia

LD1407211993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1737 GMT 14 Jul 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspsondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn, 14 Jul—Estonia's Foreign Ministry today handed Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Trofimov a note of protest that describes the actions of Mikheyev, head of the consular group in the town of Narva, as interference in Estonia's internal affairs. At his meeting with the press in Narva on 13 July, Mikheyev expressed support for the referenda called in the towns of Narva and Sillamae for 16 and 17 July. The protest note points out that the chancellor of justice of the Republic of Estonia has ruled that these referenda are unconstitutional.

Diplomat: Russia Wants To Abrogate 1920 Tartu Treaty

LD1407110293 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Excerpts] At noon today Estonian Ambassador to Stockholm Margus Laidre visited the Swedish Foreign Ministry to inform the Swedish authorities of the desire of the Russian Supreme Soviet to abrogate the Tartu Peace Treaty concluded in 1920. Margus Laidre said the following in an interview with Udo Parikas of Swedish Radio's Estonian service:

[Begin recording] [Laidre] I must admit that the attitude of the Swedish side was very constructive as it has recently been for quite some time. [passage omitted] Let us not forget that the foundation for relations between Estonia and Russia—the recognized foundation—is based precisely on this Tartu Treaty. [passage omitted]

[Parikas] Could things become so bad that it could be interpreted to some degree as a declaration of war?

[Laidre] I would not like to put it like this, but as you have said yourself, this is one way to interpret it. Naturally, one must see also a positive side to this: namely, with this statement the Russian side has officially recognized and acknowledged the existence of Tartu Peace Treaty, which so far they have persistently denied. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Premier Orders Reorganization of Narva Radio

LD1407121193 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0600 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] According to a decision by the prime minister, Narva city radio must be transferred from the city council's administration to the Viru information center. So far the city's cable radio has been solely under the jurisdiction of the city council, which appointed the editor in chief and approved the editorial staff.

According to the POSTIMEES newspaper, Sergey Gorokhov, head of the Viru information center in Narva, had not even heard of the prime minister's decision yesterday and thought that its implementation would encounter major technical and political difficulties. In Gorokhov's opinion, it has not been ruled out that the defense squad set up on the basis of the Moskayev boxing club will be used to preserve the city council's key mouthpiece.

Indrek Tarand, representative of the Estonian government in Narva, thought that the use of force over the takeover of the Narva cable radio must be ruled out. Tarand thought that four policemen at the door would suffice if the Estonian side is accused of preventing the referendum by force. [sentence as heard]

Indrek Tarand has reached an agreement with city councillors that both sides will be able to make radio appearances, and he has been taking advantage of this option daily as a government representative.

Preliminary Voting on Referendum in Narva Reported

WS1407134993 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0711 GMT 14 Jul 93

[From 14 July PAEVALEHT, p 1, 3]

[Text] Wednesday, July 14—Some 220 people have cast their ballots at the polling station on the premises of the Town Council in Narva. The polling proper will start on Saturday [17 July]. Concurrently the polling commission has launched money-raising campaign, because the Town Authority is not supporting the polling with money. Ca 10,000 kroons have been donated, and the money is coming in. Both the individuals and enterprises are contributing.

The head of the Consular Group of Russia in Narva Mr Mixeev said he personally supported the idea of referendum in Narva, denouncing the allegations, however that the idea had been imported to the North-East Estonia from outside, i.e. Russia. He also said that the Russian citizenship was gaining appeal with the citizens of Narva, the record number of people being granted the citizenship a day being 180. Up till now ca 10,000 Narva citizens have become Russian subjects. The procedure of getting the citizenship is simple: there are two forms to fill out, after which the stamp in the SU passport will verify the new citizenship.

The Narva Town Council proceeded yesterday with its session discussing the technical questions of popular vote. The session will continue the whole week. The steering committee of the polling seems to have trouble with locating the adequate premises, the schools refusing to let them in for lack of the relevant instruction from their Minister. Nevertheless the steering committee are optimistic.

Leader of Narva Trade Union Centre Mr Alekseev said he thought that only a direct dialogue between the Narva Town Council and the Government would help reduce the tension. He said he did not trust any round tables, nor the declarations of "Isamaa". He added that their last resort to get the Government to the negotiating table would be the strike in Narva.

Kohtla-Jarve is currently scene of unofficial polling for the option: "Do you support the creation of North-East Estonian national-territorial autonomy with Russians and Estonians having equal rights?" The pollsters just walk around with the lists collecting the signatures. 3,617 are reported to have given a positive answer. The team of pollsters have requested that the Town Council include the question of pronouncing the results of the poll legal on its agenda. Deputy chairman of the Town Council Agu Blankin said he did not seem to know the people on the polling list.

The Kingisepp Town Council and the administration of the district approved a message to residents of North-East Estonia expressing their support to the popular vote.

In the program "600 seconds" on Monday the Russian notorious reporter Mr Nevzorov interviewed the representatives of the Officers' Assembly of St Petersburg, who declared that the military had studied the option of action in "Narva Bridgehead" and found it favourable for the Russian troops.

Laar in Israel; Discusses Cooperation With Peres

LD1407124393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1041 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv July 14 TASS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar, who arrived in Israel for an official visit, met with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on Tuesday night. Matters concerning possible cooperation between the two countries in the economy and science were discussed during the meeting, the local news agency ITIM reported. Peres expressed concern over mounting anti-semitic manifestations in Estonia and voiced hope that the government of the republic would take appropriate measures.

Commenting on the Estonian premier's first visit to Israel, the news agency recalls that Estonia and Israel concluded a military contract worth 50 million U.S. dollars for the delivery of small arms, mortars, ammunition, uniform and radio transmitters to Tallinn.

Referring to sources in the Israeli Foreign Ministry, ITIM reports that during talks with the Estonian premier Israel will raise an issue concerning Estonian citizens—war criminals—who collaborated with the Nazis.

Israel demands that Evald Mikson, who had participated in the extermination of Jews during the Second World War, be put on trial. For many years Mikson had lived in Iceland and returned home recently.

Meets Weizman, Rabin, Peres

WS1407134693 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0711 GMT 14 Jul 93

[From 14 July PAEVALEHT, p 1]

[Text] Wednesday, July 14—The Estonian Premier Mart Laar met with the Israeli leaders yesterday, notably the President Ezer Weizman, the Premier Yitzhaq Rabin, the Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the speaker of the Parliament. While meeting with Mr Rabin the leaders of both Governments signed the agreements on cultural, educational and research cooperation. A number of possible Israeli-Estonian joint economic projects were focussed on, the finalization thereof being discussed yesterday night between the Israeli Minister of Economy and Trade Mikha Harish and the Estonian

Minister of Economy Toomas Sildmae. On issue at talks with the Foreign Minister Mr Peres were the political relations between the two countries. It was agreed that the exchange of delegations of businessmen and economists would soon be started. Today the Estonian delegation will have talks at the Ministry of Defence. Tomorrow will be the final day of their visit to Israel.

Together with the Premier and his spouse the delegation includes Toomas Sildmae, Counsellor to the Premier Tiit Pruuli and the businessman Leonid Apananski.

Latvia

Newly Elected President Ulmanis Interviewed

MK1407115093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jul 93 pp 1, 3

[Interview with President Guntis Ulmanis by Vitaliy Portnikov under "Latvia" column: "'I Shall Not Be Merely a Representative President;' President of Latvian Republic Guntis Ulmanis Is Ready for Normalization of Latvian-Russian Relations"; place and date not given]

[Text] [Portnikov] First of all, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Latvian president. How do envision your activity? After all, in the Baltic states there are different attitudes to presidential functions. Algirdas Brazauskas in Lithuania has one set of functions, and Lennart Meri in Estonia another....

[Ulmanis] Unfortunately, I am not familiar with details of the presidential institution in Lithuania and Estonia. I always try not to copy something, but form my own idea, and then it would be possible to see how it looks in other places. Because when you first look at something different, you lose your own personal attitude. Another thing—I am a man with a Nordic character. I was not sure that I would become president. I thought: Why should I study all these nuances before I am elected? They talk about a president's representative functions, but my character and my life experience do not allow this. Another thing could be a problem—that I might become too active in dealing with things. Therefore, I will observe the principles of the constitution, which clearly separate the functions of the Sejmas, the government, and the president. I am going to take an active part in foreign policy matters. I have already invited Foreign Minister Georg Andreyev and Latvian Ambassador to Russia Yanis Peters in order to analyze carefully the problems involved in the talks with Russia. I can see many very complicated and difficult aspects there, and this will be one of the subjects that I intend to discuss in detail. Then questions related to military formations—zeymsargs, ayzsargs [translation of preceding two words unknown], border troops, and the Armed Forces themselves. The president must directly attend to that. The third set of problems is economic. I have great respect for our prime minister, and I am hoping for joint work. The point recorded in the Constitution that the president has the right to direct the work of the government, I believe, should be used only in exceptional circumstances. I think that I will be taking part in cabinet sessions, but I do not consider it my duty to intervene in the details. It would be wrong to create equally strong financial and economic services in all three institution. I will have to start from scratch—I do not even have an administrative office. But I am an optimist in this respect. In 1918-19 things were even more difficult. Therefore the composition will be relatively small at first—a mere several dozen people. It is important that these should be qualified experts who will enable me to appraise the laws adopted by the Sejmas and the performance of the Cabinet of Ministers.

[Portnikov] Your election was the result of a complicated coalition agreement. You were nominated to the post of president by the Latvian Peasants Union while the key posts in the government are occupied by representatives of another parliamentary faction—the Latvian Path. Are you not afraid of possible difficulties here?

[Ulmanis] Problems can arise as we go along. For instance, the state owes the peasants large sums of money. From where is this money to be taken? The question is not whether or not to return the money, but about the possibilities of resolving it. I do not think that with our advent everything will become just perfect within several days or several months. If we could continue all the good things that were put in place by the preceding Supreme Council and the government and build our work on this basis, it would be an accomplishment in itself. Generally speaking, I think that factions are normal. Of course, I am a little anxious that merely 53 votes were cast for the president, and I realize that my candidacy had as many weaknesses as it had strong points. I will meet with all the factions, and I will seek possibilities for constructive dialogue.

[Portnikov] Having decided to give first priority to reviewing the problem of Russian-Latvian relations, you have demonstrated your concern over the way this dialogue has been proceeding.

[Ulmanis] Yes, I understand that normal neighborly relations are a guarantee for the future. The aim here is to look for ways of achieving rapprochement. I am worried by the instability of the Russian Federation. These are no less complicated problems than the ones here, and therefore the development of relations is affected by two factors—our wishes and their possibilities, depending on the internal situation.

[Portnikov] Russian-Latvian relations are often linked to resolving the problem of noncitizens in Latvia....

[Ulmanis] The question of citizenship, the question of quotas will be considered in detail by the Sejmas. I will take care not to anticipate the decision of the Sejmas. First the Sejmas makes a decision, and then the president will state his attitude.... The nationalities question is characteristic in that it needs to be talked about less and thought about more, and whatever we might be thinking about will be very painful for each group. It is necessary to do all this in a balanced way so that you are certain that the correct decision has been made. The heart of the problem, whose acuteness we must relax, is the survival of the Letts on their own soil. This is the keynote. The rest is not so difficult. No one will ever forgive the president, the government, or the Sejmas if we make a mistake in these matters. This is the most profound problem. In no event must there be any haste or loud-mouthed statements or futile, impractical scheming. People have settled down, and they have their apartments and wages. If we decide something, consideration, gradualism, and tact are needed. Very often, we incite passions. Nothing has been adopted yet. Nothing has happened, but there is a wave of hatred on both sides coming along that is causing tremendous damage.

[Portnikov] Your election is, of course, being linked to the personality of your uncle, Karlis Ulmanis, president of pre-war Latvia. How do you appraise his performance, which was marked by, among other things, a coup d'etat on 15 May 1934?

[Ulmanis] I am a proponent of a democratic political system, and this accounts for my attitude toward the 15 May events in a purely political respect. But something similar, unfortunately, was happening at that time in all of Europe. So the events of 1934 was caused, rather, by the influence of external factors. Historians and analysts have not as yet fully assessed this process, although no one recognizes dictatorship in its pure form.

Ulmanis had very many qualities that were connected with the people. He won authority by paying attention to the peasants, culture, and education. The spiritual and moral foundation that he created during those years enabled many of our emigrants not to lose their identity in the United States and to return home as full-fledged Letts. These things are perhaps much more valuable than some transient factors—such as a well-built factory or plant.

I have certain feelings for him as a relative—respect, recognition, and love. This memory was not easy to come by—we did not learn about our family connections until recently....

[Portnikov] Is it possible to go back to 1940?

[Ulmanis] In the legislative sphere, this return has occurred. The first days of the Sejmas' work have shown that our constitution is not a bad document and that it can be used even 60 years later. But, starting from scratch, we must move forward fast. A return to the past is connected more with emotional, moral traditions. And with a striving for stability.

[Portnikov] How will relations be shaping up with Sejmas Chairman Anatoliy Gorbunovs, who in the last few years has actually been running the state?

[Ulmanis] I have the highest opinion of the Sejmas leaders. To be sure, there will be disputes. But Gorbunovs has very many positive qualities. This is one of my firm supports. The president does not have to make sweeping conclusions on each particular matter. What would President Yeltsin do? I strongly sympathize with him as a man, and I wish him endurance and willpower so that these questions can be resolved positively.

[Portnikov] President Yeltsin once had special relations with the Baltic leaders.... Are they possible now?

[Ulmanis] Time will tell. This is a difficult question. Maybe many would like to hear me repeat that we shall be talking with the West, but at the same time I am more concerned about our relations with Russia.

Foreign Minister on Russian Review of Peace Treaty

LD1407231993 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] [First unidentified announcer] A protest was held at the Russian Embassy in Riga Wednesday morning [14 July]. The participants were protesting Russia's interference in Estonia's affairs. The picketers arrived with placards, on which was written, in Latvian, Russian, and English: Today Narva, tomorrow Daugavpils, but after that all the Baltic countries; as well as: Don't repeat the Ribbentrop-Molotov policy.

[Second unidentified announcer] On Monday, the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium submitted to parliament for review the issue of denouncing the Latvian-Russian peace treaty of 15 August 1920. On Wednesday, Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs commented on the situation.

[Andrejevs] As with so many commissions' draft resolutions, it is usually not acceptable for another country to comment and react to them, (?and therefore it's too early with Russia), but in this case we were actually forced to react. It is our duty, because the resolution of the Supreme Soviet Presidium is already an official step. Of course it is not the final one; the plenary session of the Supreme Soviet will decide that. At present, we regard this resolution as not yet taken. It's only in an intermediate stage.

Well, that gave us the right to react, and the form of the reaction was very much the accepted one in diplomatic activity: it is a verbal note. We called upon the Russian ambassador, Mr. Rannikh, yesterday and presented him with this verbal note. There was also, of course, an exchange of views with Mr. Rannikh, as a result of which the conclusion was drawn that this division of various powers is still going on in Russia, and one structure does not inform another of its activities, such as in the case of determining the status of the town of Sevastopol. There are grounds for thinking that neither the Russian Government nor the Foreign Ministry and foreign office, which are part of it, were not informed about such proclamations. It could of course change in the future.

On many things, just to judge from the motivation for working out this draft resolution, it is as if they need to delay the possible claims of two Baltic countries on border questions, for those territories that were incorporated into Pskov region, in our case Abrene. Of course, that could have much larger consequences and is not to be regarded as applying so narrowly.

The view exists that you cannot denounce peace treaties at all, by announcing the denunciation of a peace treaty in this way. And even the official Russian stance until now, as confirmed by Mr. Rannikh, is such that the 1920 peace treaty with Latvia was already broken the moment the Soviet Union attacked Latvia and annexed it.

So from that moment, it no longer functioned. We live in a new situation, a new historical reality. Latvia has recovered its independence, but there was no link in the Russian attitude with that at all. It wasn't even beneficial to them, if this treaty were to function, as if in a renewed form again, existing for Russia and Latvia as the states they are today, because that would give us many more points than it would Russia. If someone announces that it's been denounced right now, then on the other hand what is denounced had existed, was current, functioning, wasn't it, some sort of agreement?

So here it is possible that it is not beneficial to Russia. We must live and wait, must intensify our vigilance, of course we must also observe the activity of Russia's (?administrative divisions) here. In no case does this give cause for any hysterical activities, unconsidered ones, because as I say, Russia is big, and one institution of power will do what another does not accept.

Lithuania

Brazauskas on Russian Troop Withdrawal, Trade

LD1207151193 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1330 GMT 12 Jul 93

[Interview with President Algirdas Brazauskas by correspondent Vytas Usas on 12 July; place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Usas] Only 50 days remain until 31 August. The last serviceman of the Russian armed forces is to leave Lithuania on that day and the people of Lithuania are eagerly waiting for this day. I am aware that some days ago you had a meeting with the Lithuanian state negotiation delegation for negotiations with Russia, therefore, I presume this issue had been discussed, so how is the withdrawal of the Russian troops and the military equipment progressing?

[Brazauskas] Well, people who are interested in this issue are well informed about this because there has been many reports about it.

On Friday [9 July] I met the state delegation for negotiations with Russia. Many issues were discussed and as you have said 50 days is a very short period of time. The signing of the agreement keeps being postponed for various reasons, I would not like to burden you with details on that, and we are approaching such a stage when the question arises whether there is any point in signing this agreement at all.

Of course, when the signing of this agreement was linked with the signing of economic agreements with the Russian Government, then this, of course, caused us a great deal of concern. At the moment we are working intensively on this in order that the signing of the agreement on the withdrawal of the Russian troops is not linked with the signing of economic agreements. The latter are rather numerous because we have borders with the Kaliningrad oblast. The Kaliningrad oblast has a great deal of interest in us and reciprocally, our organizations also have quite extensive links with them. Today draft agreements on free trade and on most favorable partner have already been set up, and discussions are currently underway with the Russian Government in order to have these signed.

I have already mentioned when I spoke on television about the proposed customs duties from 1 July for export to Russia amounting to 100 percent, this is , of course, a very difficult case. In practical terms, our enterprises lose the possibility to market the sort of produce that they are actually unable to sell in our domestic market. It also affects those who had concluded long-term agreements with Russian trade organizations. This is also the produce that we are unable to sell in the West [words indistinct].

Not only do we need the Russian market, there are many other people who also need the Russian market. I would say that the investors from the West who invest their capital here, although not as vigorously as we would wish them to do, also expect to reach the Russian market.

However, if we create barriers of 100 percent customs duties, then the sales of our produce run into very complex difficulties, moreover, that the power engineering resources that we purchase in Russia for world prices have a direct impact on the price of our goods, and having taken this into consideration we can see that the issue gets even more complex.

I am not advocating having only one trade partner on one side for ever. We must look for trade partners, and some enterprises have already shown a positive example in this, proving that our produce can be exported to some other areas. Unfortunately, these are just individual enterprises. [passage omitted]

Vilnius Seeks Agreement With Russia on Troop Pullout

LD1407170793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1505 GMT 14 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius July 14 TASS—Head of the Lithuanian negotiating team at talks with Russia Virgilius Bulovas told a briefing on Wednesday [14 July] that "instead of an all-embracing political treaty concerning different aspects of the pullout of Russian troops from the republic's territory, as demanded by the Russian delegation, Lithuania is preparing just an agreement".

The deadline for the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from Lithuanian territory is August 31, 1993. This is envisaged by the Russo-Lithuanian agreement and the schedule signed by the Russian and Lithuanian defence ministers in Moscow on September 8, 1992. However, the main document regulating all legal rights and obligations of the sides in the process of the troops pullout has not yet been worked out. The point at issue is the property left behind by Russian troops in Lithuania, as well as social guarantees for Russian servicemen who may wish to live in the republic.

"We do not retract our principal demands concerning the strict observance of the pullout schedule and compensation for the damages caused to Lithuania by the former Soviet Union since 1940's", Bulovas stressed.

At its plenary session behind closed doors on Tuesday evening, the Lithuanian Sejm (parliament) discussed for three hours the progress of negotiations between the Lithuanian and Russian state delegations. Journalists were barred from the discussion.

Democratic Labor Party Leader Hosts News Conference

LD1407123893 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Several news conferences were held at the national assembly this morning.

Justinas Karosas, leader of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDLP] faction, admitted that during the last few months the faction has not always adhered to the social democratic program concepts during the adoption of laws. However, this was unfailingly with the aim of curbing the economic chaos in the country.

Gediminas Kirkilas said that the LDLP Council also gave a critical assessment of the performance of the party's parliamentary faction. The leadership of the party demands more resolution from its representatives in the assembly. However, the existing conditions should also be taken into consideration.

The priority in our program is the legal reform and not (?cheap sausage), Gediminas Kirkilas said at the news conference. Nevertheless, something has been achieved. The constitutional court has been formed, and some laws or amendments to them have been adopted.

Albinas Lozoraitis, member of the Lithuanian assembly said that over a period of several working months, a majority in the LDLP faction understood that the former policy should be continued, although sometimes it is not entirely acceptable.

Reality must be placed above party arrogance. He voiced satisfaction that the two wings in parliament are not as opposed to each other as it seemed at the beginning. Sometimes a common point of view can be reached with the opposition.

Following this, a news conference was held by Virgilijus Bulavas, leader of the state delegation for negotiations with Russia.

He reproached the media, saying that reports appearing in the press about the progress of the negotiations with Russia were not always based on reliable sources. He announced that an agreement and not a political treaty with Russia is being prepared, and he acquainted the journalists with its contents.

The main concepts on the pullout of the Russian troops according to the defined timetable and the compensation for the inflicted damage have not been renounced.

In addition, information on the progress of the negotiations with Russia was given at a three-hour, closed assembly session yesterday.

Landsbergis Responds to LDDP Attacks on Opposition

WS1507110493 Vilnius VALSTIECIU LAIKRASTIS in Lithuanian 26 Jun 93 p 3

[Article by opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis: "B. Genzelis Attacks Again"]

[Text] In TIESA's 24 June issue, Professor B. Genzelis claims to have heard from the LDDP [Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party] opponents that the "opposition's rights are being violated in Lithuania." In fact, the problem is much broader—human rights, the principles of democracy, and the Constitution are being violated in Lithuania. All of this also applies to land ownership. The opposition is being attacked for bringing out these vices of the LDDP regime and for protesting recurrent and dishonest appropriations. Such a serious philosopher as B. Genzelis should not call the conclusions of the Constitutional Protection Committee concerning these violations "the shouts on the streets of like-minded individuals."

The essence of the TIESA article is the LDDP's inability or unwillingness to combat organized crime, expressed through assaults on the opposition and the former Supreme Council chairman. This campaign began much earlier by involving even one German paper into this local fraud. B. Genzelis' article in TIESA disseminates some fabrications and a lot of demagogy devoted to the LDDP supporters who have not yet recovered their senses. "The readers know the reality," writes Prof. Genzelis, and this was actually demonstrated in the by-elections in Kaisiadorys.

It is typical of the LDDP and Seimas member not to know for what state some "Lithuanian subunit of the Security Committee" served. The author keeps silent and does not comment at all on the destruction of the State Security Service by dismissing P. Plumpa and his staff and replacing it with former USSR KGB officials. The press of other countries writes about the dangerous relations between this category of people and the criminal world. Genzelis' reprimands of the former militia chief in the Zarasai region for studying at the USSR Interior Academy in 1990 is nothing but a witch-hunt. Meanwhile, the former Supreme Council leadership that the author accuses of "suspicion" did not reproach the first interior minister of the restored Lithuanian state for his more colorful past.

The cynicism of the LDDP expropriators of land becomes especially visible when mentioning "the people who wish to regain something and who seek revenge for inflicted damages," but the "course of history is not always favorable to them."

Does a person who desires to regain his parents' land seek vengeance?

Can "the course of history" justify deportees' injuries?

[Signed] Vytautas Landsbergis
[Dated] 24 June 1993